

Planning and Housing Committee

Item PH32.4 – Toronto Builds: 78 Springhurst Avenue and 1 to 3 Close Avenue (Dunn House Phase 2)

Deputant: Dr. Andrew Boozary

Organization: University Health Network (UHN)

Title: Executive Director, Gattuso Centre for Social Medicine

Chair and Members of the Planning and Housing Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of the proposed Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment for Dunn House Phase 2.

My name is Dr. Andrew Boozary. I am the Executive Director of the Gattuso Centre for Social Medicine at University Health Network.

As a physician working in shelters and drop-ins across this city, I see every day that health is shaped by far more than the care we deliver in hospitals. Housing is one of the strongest predictors of health we have — and one of the most important investments this city can make.

We know healthcare alone cannot solve homelessness. But without housing, healthcare will never be enough.

Dunn House has shown us what is possible. Since its opening, tenants — many of whom cycled through emergency departments and hospital beds for years — have seen emergency department visits fall by more than half, and hospital bed days fall by nearly 80 percent. These are not just system savings. They represent people taking medications more reliably, feeling safe, and rebuilding their lives with dignity.

None of this happened by accident. It happened because the Parkdale community welcomed this project as neighbours. Because residents, community organizations, and local leaders chose partnership over fear. I want to thank the people of Parkdale directly — you have shown this city what community looks like.

I also want to thank Councillor Gord Perks, whose steadfast support across both phases has been essential, along with the Housing Secretariat, the Housing Development Office, City staff, and our partners who have carried this work forward.

Dunn House Phase 2 is an opportunity to build on what is working — expanding an approach that is improving health outcomes, supporting dignity, and strengthening our communities.

On behalf of University Health Network, I respectfully encourage the Committee to support this application.

Thank you.