



STAN CHO, MPP
Willowdale

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March 10, 2021

Honourable Steve Clark
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park 17th Floor,
777 Bay St,
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Clark,

I write to respectfully urge you at this time, to refrain from signing a Ministerial Zoning Order (MZO) that would accelerate the construction of a proposed modular housing project to be built at 175 Cummer Avenue, until the City of Toronto has adequately consulted with our community and considered the input of local residents.

Minister, I applaud this initiative as well as the work our government has done to combat homelessness during COVID-19, including the \$765 million Social Services Relief Fund investment your ministry has provided municipalities to build long-term affordable housing and support vulnerable people.

As you know, this proposed housing project is part of a federal government initiative to rapidly build modular housing units for those without a permanent home and who have been most adversely affected by the outbreak of COVID-19.

However, the federal government's Rapid Housing Initiative is designed to build affordable housing extremely quickly, without any consideration given to adequate public consultation on the projects or site selection.

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Local consultation is critically important in Willowdale and across Toronto. Despite claims of widespread community support by our City Councillor, there simply has not been enough time or information to ensure this new proposed project will be successful for both our community and future tenants of this project.

As you know, your Ministry moved quickly to accelerate the construction of new affordable housing in Toronto's West Don Lands. However, the City of Toronto asked you to slow down the process and consult with the local community. I was pleased to see that you accepted the City's request and began public consultation with the community.

That's why I was surprised to hear from our Councillor and the City that they want you to issue an MZO that would cut through adequate community consultation in Willowdale. I am simply asking that the City of Toronto give the same respect to Willowdalers as they do to residents of the West Don Lands.

Typically, these types of projects take months of local consultation and environmental study simply to get a development application. In this case, the project was discussed at the Planning and Housing Committee on March 2nd and officially submitted to Toronto City Council on March 5th. The issue was voted on by Council *today*, March 10th, just days after the initial submission.

Minister, Willowdalers care about their neighbours and they want to support those most vulnerable in our province. Our community has welcomed affordable housing projects and a center for refugees with open arms.

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Along with my constituents and neighbours, I urge you to only consider an MZO for the proposed modular housing project at 175 Cummer Avenue after a proper, community-based consultation process has taken place.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stan Cho".

Stan Cho
Member of Provincial Parliament for Willowdale

- c: Bayview-Cummer Neighbourhood Association
Edithvale-Yonge Community Association
Silverview Community Association
Willowdale Central Ratepayers Association
West Willowdale Neighbourhood Association
West Lansing Homeowners Association
Yonge-Corridor Condominium Association