

TORONTO COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION

BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2020

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WRITTEN DEPUTATIONS

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Deputation #1 - Miguel Avila-Velarde

Item 2F - Status Update on Design and Construction of Tenant Services Hubs and Interior Improvements

BOARD Public Meeting - February 26, 2021

RE: Status Update on Design and Construction of Tenant Service Hubs and Interior Improvements Item 2F

In particular I am interested in knowing the plans for Page 3 on the

	Hub ID #	DevName	Address	Op Unit	Region	Ward	Tenant Spaces				Status
							Common	B.F. W/C	Laundry	Res Unit	
21	64	Regent Park (North)	415 Gerrard Street East	M	Central	13					Construction
22	65	River Street (110)	110 River St.	M	Central	13					Construction
23	67	Sackville St. (230)	230 Sackville St.	M	Central	13					Construction
24	68	Gerrard River	220 Oak St.	M	Central	13					Complete

Deputation #2 - Miguel Avila-Velarde
Item 2F - Status Update on Design and Construction of Tenant Services
Hubs and Interior Improvements
BOARD Public Meeting - February 26, 2021

Good Morning Board Members.. Happy Friday!!

It has been a while.. I am here to SPEAK on item 2F of the Agenda: Status update and Construction of Tenant Services Hubs, and Interior Improvements.

The good news.. Covid has not stopped us to accomplish goals set for 220 Oak Street and other projects around the city.

The Integrated Service Model team chose 220 Oak Street to become the first **resident services hub a pilot project..** and was opened in 2020 Kevin and Sheila you were there for the RIBBON CUT CEREMONY..and the awesome CUPE local 416 crew as well, My Girlfriend Barbara and Local Staff they took pictures and I send them this morning to the Board for view and by the way IN TIME to be included in your publication "**TENANT LOOP 2020**" there was no mention of 220 Oak Street Hub Opening Ceremony I submitted pictures to Staff but they were received late? I do hope those pictures appear in a future edition of the Tenant Loop or the INSIDE HOUSING news letters.

I am the new Tenant Rep for the Building.. and honored to serve since 2012 at 220 oak street. there were some mistakes

the lessons learned at 220 oak street:

Covid19 disrupted plans for all the country and tchc did its best to meet goals the Hub was opened, and I am glad they are there in their limited participation. when life returns to normal we expect more activities to happen. It will be a busy place because construction will happen at 220 Oak street - I do hope the mayor who was in attendance early is listening because we have a \$649 Budget Hole approved by the City Council last week. expecting the province and the federal government to come to the rescue , the Toronto Police Budget remained untouched and was passed to the shock and surprise of concerned torontonians who seek to defend the police.

I do hope the capital project funding remains untouched.. residents are excited that the renewal project will bring new hope for people's lives..

HORROR! It appears that consultations or physical visits with the Rpath committee did not happen , errors were detected later on.. after the completion of the project I will blame COVID19 of course and the lockdowns rules..

Deputation #2 - Miguel Avila-Velarde

Item 2F - Status Update on Design and Construction of Tenant Services

Hubs and Interior Improvements

BOARD Public Meeting - February 26, 2021

the rpath committee visited the finish project in late 2020 , the current design does not allow the hassle free traffic of wheelchairs

so the LGP partners and my good TCHC Friend Adam took the advice under consideration from RPATH .. in the draft design for the 220 Oak ST Tower Renewal Project the main floor will switch locations from the west side to east side of the building to widen the way for Wheelchairs. so the issue has been resolved.

moving on.. 415 Gerrard StreetI have to wonder..this location has been the OUM main office since 10 years I have been a TCHC resident in Regent Park . I passed by today and saw that CONSTRUCTION is happening. and I am attaching a picture for your view. There are offices on the second floor .. I wonder if the office space will be reduced, since it appears you are staying put and RETURN space for units for rental, maybe???

the building is to be demolished since we have secured a developer for phases 4 and 5... would it make more sense to allocate a different building?

1 Cole Street could be potentially a place.. but I know Block A in Regent Park has not been built by Daniels.. so the plan is to move 415 Gerrard office hub to a newer location at BLOCK A corner of Gerrard and Parliament Street.

Can we ensure that the Rpath is consulted and perhaps a VIRTUAL tour can be provided due to covid or other issues?

Thank You

Miguel --

"Political speech [...] is the single most important and protected type of expression. It lies at the core of the guarantee of free expression [...]. The right of the people to discuss and debate ideas forms the very foundation of democracy [...]. For this reason, the Supreme Court of Canada has assiduously protected the right of each citizen to participate in political debate."

- SUPREME COURT OF CANADA, 2004

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"Political speech [...] is the single most important and protected type of expression. It lies at the core of the guarantee of free expression [...]. The right of the people to discuss and debate ideas forms the very foundation of democracy [...]. For this reason, the Supreme Court of Canada has assiduously protected the right of each citizen to participate in political debate."

- SUPREME COURT OF CANADA, 2004



Deputation #3 - Miguel Avila-Velarde
Item 2F - Status Update on Design and Construction of Tenant Services
Hubs and Interior Improvements
BOARD Public Meeting - February 26, 2021

Dear Board Members:

Due to time constraints I could not wait to speak on the phone to present my verbal deputation. I did however pass information to Sonia Fung and is part of the record..

There are two (2) things that I missed to present to the board

ONE:

In addition to what I had to say yesterday in my WRITTEN deputation.. I forgot to mention that the present Resident Services Hub at 220 Oak Street DUE the old structure of this building limits the space for transit of wheelchairs around this new hub as noted by the R-path committee is a big CHALLENGE. we can't move PILLARS of CONCRETE around.. all the building will collapse.. I am not saying it is impossible.. it will be ratified when the First Phase of the Tower Renewal relocates the HUB ensuring that wider passage for wheelchairs around the office.. can potentially happen.

TWO:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you

Miguel

Deputation - Anthea Charles
Item 2F - Status Update on Design and Construction of
Tenant Services Hubs and Interior Improvements
BOARD Public Meeting - February 26, 2021

To whom it may concern,

Tenant Engagement means to be included as part of the decision making process and having knowledge in all that is happening in our TCHC housing community. Tenant Engagement means to have tenants feel empowered to be part of their community, to be friendly towards each other and/or respect each other in the activities that they want to participate in as part of the housing community. I think it means taking into consideration their work/life balance that is individual to each tenant and to accommodate their willingness to participate by phone and webinar for example.

To keep them informed a paper transcript of the meeting should also be available in the language of their choice. Of course there should be interpreters available to reduce feelings of isolation due to language barriers. Voting to create a democratic process where each tenant that is of the age of majority or is named on the lease is eligible to vote so that each person in the can have an equal say. Again, making sure to have documentation in the language of choice of the tenant so that a language barrier would not be the reason to stop a tenant from being engaged.

We need to have equitable access to funding based on the history of the housing complex. Housing complexes that have not received funding in the past, should be prioritized to receive funding for their projects in the future. We have never been given access to partnership offers on a regular basis. We had access for a brief one month period before the pandemic started and no tenants were able to benefit from access due to the lateness of the offer.

We don't have a place for us to meet on a regular basis, now that we can meet virtually and by phone, it should help with this issue. However, we were never given information in a timely manner and were always late to the table. As the tenant rep to Riverdale Mews, I hope that will not be an issue to the future. Knowledge is power. We need to be educated every step of the way. We don't have a place to meet in person, which we need to do as neighbours. We need to have an established, accessible, close meeting place. We have 3 community centres that are very close to us but we haven't been given access to be able to meet in them on a regular basis. We need to have this in writing. We need to have a place for parties in the winter time as we do not have basements and only a few have backyards.

Sincerely,
Anthea Charles
Community Representative of 436 Leslie Street

Deputation - SQI Focus Group
Item 2F - Status Update on Design and Construction of Tenant
Services Hubs and Interior Improvements
BOARD Public Meeting - February 26, 2021

To whom it may concern,

This deputation is being submitted by the SQI Focus Group. We have been recruited by TCHC to evaluate the Service Quality Indicator survey and provide feedback to make the survey more accessible for tenants. Staff and tenants are working together to make important changes to improve services and increase collaboration between staff and tenants.

The Tenant Engagement system has benefited us by giving me hope that this new way of engaging will open dialog by listening with respect and understanding. I am also glad about the new system of tenant representatives, the elections, the easy process despite the pandemic, and the group meeting we had and are going to have online. It was well-handled and fair, the first Orientation for Community Representatives which occurred on February 24th was very informative and went really well. The meeting and Tenant Engagement gives us a good understanding of what we are trying to do.

The implementation of Service Hubs are very important. The tenants in our building are happy that we are going to have a service hub in our building, for different reasons. Seniors and individuals with disabilities are happy that they don't need to travel long distances to reach the Housing office and it is right there in the building. We are all happy that we have the office in our building and so close, so all our concerns and problems can be mentioned directly to the Hub office. Also more security, and also people who work in the office will be aware of what is going on in the building.

Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to speak about this in the board meeting on February 26th.

Sincerely,

Rama Fayaz, Rob Bezanson, Brian Robinson Anthea Charles, Claudette Riddock, Alice Leblanc,

SQI Focus Group



February 25 2021

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mr. Timothy Murphy

Chair, Board of Directors
Toronto Community Housing Corporation
931 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4W 2H2

RE: Toronto Community Housing's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy

Dear Mr. Murphy:

I am writing to urge the Toronto Community Housing Board of Directors to approve the Toronto Community Housing Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy at the Board meeting to be held on February 26 2021. The Strategy and recommendations contained within the report are important steps in taking long overdue action to address and redress systemic anti-Black racism in the context of public housing in our city. Demonstrating results in this regard is critical.

The Black Health Alliance works to improve the health and well-being of Black populations in Canada. Much of our work is currently focused in Toronto, and is concerned with the social determinants of health, as we understand that the social determinants are the key drivers of health and well-being for Black residents.

Toronto Community Housing operates at the nexus of many of the key social determinants that Black residents are disproportionately and negatively affected by: anti-Black racism, housing, income security, and the built environment. We believe that Toronto Community Housing has a responsibility to work to address systemic anti-Black racism inside and outside of its physical footprint, and a responsibility to work to improve the health and well-being of Black residents impacted by racism. The Eight Point Plan contained within the strategy identifies key areas to address and redress anti-Black racism, and we believe that the focus of this plan provides a good foundation to build from.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the staff at Toronto Community Housing who have supported and driven this necessary effort, and I encourage the Board to approve the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy.

Sincerely,

Paul Bailey

Paul Bailey

Interim Executive Director

Black Health Alliance

Deputation - Javan Courtney
Item 5 - TCHC's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy Development
BOARD Public Meeting - February 26, 2021

February 25th, 2021.

Re: Letter in Support of TCHC's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy

I have worked for Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) for six years in the revitalization program. I had the opportunity to participate in the healing circles, a focus group, and sessions with the CABR team. My professional experience, training, informal and formal conversations with black tenants and staff, and my identity as a black man have validated:

- a. TCHC is equipped to support the people, processes, and systems that improve the wellbeing of black tenants and staff;
- b. Black tenants face significant hardships when accessing civic institutions – including housing services;
- c. Black tenants and staff have disproportionate outcomes not because of our inability, but because of a general systemic apathy to our needs.

I write this letter in support of TCHC's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy because:

- a. The experiences of over 600 distinct tenants, staff, and community members are reflected in the strategy;
- b. The strategy in its parts and in its entirety, have accurately captured my experience as a staff at TCHC;
- c. If implemented, the strategy improves TCHC's anti-black racism competencies and the organization's ability to meaningfully serve black tenants;
- d. The board, executive team – including Mr. Marshman and Ms. Penny, and the CABR unit have consistently reinforced confronting anti-black racism as an organizational priority. This cultural reset makes it easier for staff to be partners with black tenants in supporting their wellbeing.

Lastly, the proposed Centre is aligned with other governmental bodies; mainly, the City of Toronto's CABR unit and the TDSB's Centre for Black Student Excellence. The Centre will allow for policy alignment, intergovernmental projects that benefit black tenants, improved staff training, consistent engagement with black tenants and communities, and the consistent application of HR practices that are informed by anti-black racism. These actions are necessary to confront anti-black racism at TCHC today.

As a staff I welcome and thank the board for your strong leadership in championing a needed cultural reset.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Javan Courtney
Manager, Revitalization & Renewal Communities Staff

February 24, 2021

Board of Directors
Toronto Community Housing Corporation
931 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4W 2H2

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Toronto Community Housing Corporation's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy

Delta Family Resource Centre is writing this letter to support and endorse the Confronting Anti-Black Racism (CABR) Strategy developed by Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC).

Delta Family Resource Centre (DFRC) is a grassroots, non-profit, community-based agency which is committed to enhancing the potential of families and children by supporting and addressing identified needs. Our organization has provided a wide range of programs, services and activities that enhance individual skills and promotes well-being and healthy communities for over 37 years in Northwest Toronto. Our catchment includes many TCHC neighbourhoods and NIA communities such as Humber Summit, Humbermede, Jamestown, Mt. Olive and Beaumont Heights.

It is our organization's belief that through empowering those who work closest to communities, that positive transformation can occur. Through consultations with the CABR Strategy team we identified key concerns in the area of anti-Black Racism for TCHC as:

- Accessible, systemic processes for addressing ABR in transparent, meaningful ways in which perpetrators are held accountable
- Organizational support to confront anti-Black racism from TCHC leadership
- The ability for all staff to have the capacity and competency to implement the CABR Strategy
- The ability of tenants to have the capacity to clearly identify ABR and take steps to address it, confident in the expectation that it will be fairly processed.

Delta Family believes that the CABR Strategy will be an important first step in effectively addressing these concerns. The development of the Centre with the embedded authority to follow through with the recommendations and outcomes is central to meaningful progress in creating a TCHC which practices ABR, and, if implemented, will introduce responsive approaches to implementing changes in policies and procedures in alignment with evolving community needs.

Leadership with vision and authority as demonstrated through the CABR Strategy will provide TCHC with the capacity to transform the organization into a City leader in positive engagement with the Black community.

I welcome the CABR strategy as an indication that wider systemic change in local institutions is possible and look forward to what the future will bring.

Kemi Jacobs

Executive Director

Deputation - Cheryl Duggan
 Item 5 - TCHC's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy Development
 BOARD Public Meeting - February 26, 2021

For a group of persons who indicated during their virtual conversations that they were going to do things differently than other TCHC community engagement initiatives in the past - stating that you would value tenant contributions – you're off to a bad start.

Page 9 “The focus group sessions were created for three audience groups: all-staff, Black staff and Black tenants.” That may have been how this was designed. But, I was there for a number of the virtual sessions. I wanted to listen. I wanted to learn. I wanted to build bridges. Despite the fact that I showed up my contribution doesn't count. According to CABR's own admission, of whom the groups were created for, they didn't want to hear from non-Black tenants.

My bad... Always showing up where I don't belong.

Speaking of belonging **this** Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy reads like Black people have the monopoly on not belonging.

I haven't belonged my entire life. My 'mother', and I use that term loosely because she really lacked in the nurturing department insisted that I refer to her as “Mrs. Duggan”. I never did find out who my biological father was. Mrs. Duggan took that secret with her to her grave. I have no pictures, no first name, no last name, no initials. Nothing. ... Nada. I didn't belong there.

Thanks to my own ingenuity, I ended up in a foster home. I didn't belong there either.

I was dumped into a group home within a year. As much as they talked about building healthy relationships with the other residents and staff it became clear after an unannounced post release visit that I didn't belong there either.

While I was at the group home they determined I couldn't go to high school because I was a risk to other students. I was angry at the world. I can agree, at the time, I didn't belong there either.

I ended up with an abusive boyfriend. I could put up with it as long as it was just me. Then I got pregnant. At that point, I knew, I didn't belong there either.

I would occasionally escape to a shelter a few blocks away where you could get a meal, a blanket and pillow to carve out a space on the living room floor to sleep. I would only stay for one night at a time. I knew I didn't belong there either.

I became a single mom to two perfectly healthy children. Constant CAS visits every two weeks for the first two years of my son's life. Then they reset the timer after my daughter was born. The system did everything it could to convince me I didn't belong there either.

Imagine the uproar I caused when I removed my son from school when he was in Grade Three. The school board had already agreed to partial attendance. But, there was an incident, that he got blamed for, that the principal later agreed, wasn't his fault. Imagine me with one measly grade nine credit and the audacity to think I could teach my own child what educated teachers couldn't. The Toronto District School Board did everything it could (to no avail) to prove that I didn't belong there either.

When I did return to higher education I did everything I could to avoid going to class. I would show up to do the group work, hand in assignments and write the exams. I actually went to learn. I didn't want to socialize. I didn't belong there either.

Even with the recent work I did to complete my Risk Management certification I never attended the virtual classes. Everyone else in those classes was employed in either insurance, banking, transportation, government agencies, or risk itself. I didn't belong there either.

On page 33 you state “A small group of non-Black tenants can challenge what is agreed upon and be catered to ...” Do you have specific examples of that as it relates to CABR? I can't help but take this comment personally. There aren't that many of us, Black or non-Black tenants, that are activist enough to 'challenge' anything. I get the distinct impression that despite any other qualifications or skills I bring to the table I am certified white. Therefore, my contributions are invalid. Once again I'm being told I don't belong here either.

On some level, or at some point in the not so distant future, you must agree - as I do - with your quote on page 9 “We did not create this problem and it is not ours alone to solve.” So Where do non-Black tenants fit into your initiative? Especially when there are those of us who are prepared to listen, eager to learn, and more than willing to meet you half way.

Otherwise, that “fail forward” concept mentioned on page 9 needs some type of assessment framework to deal with the cycle of failure. On the one hand if you don't pick one - the scientific method or risk management cycle - you're doomed to keep making the same mistakes over and over again. On the other hand, you want to be able to clearly identify what worked so that you can repeat it.

In addition, I'd like to know where the KPI's are that would be associated with any of CABR's “failing forward” framework? Some of those could be, but most definitely are not limited to, an increased number of Black tenants involved in community engagement, and a decrease in the number of Black tenants being evicted for criminal or anti-social behaviour. If you need a more current and pressing issue how about the Key Performance Indicator of a decrease in the number of Black tenants diagnosed with and or dying from COVID in TCHC. How are you ever going to know if you're going in the right direction if you don't know what success looks like and how to measure it?

This reads like a draft copy. Its incomplete. Even the examples used to amplify issues were far from ideal.

The example given on page 23 of a 17 year old with a curfew after a time of house arrest being apprehended for violating that condition was a very bad choice of how to highlight the Black communities concern are about the apparently incestuous relationship between Toronto Police Services and TCHC's Special Constables. It wasn't just 'a 17 year old boy in the elevator of his own building’. It was a 17 year old - WITH A LEGALLY MANDATED CURFEW - in the elevator of - A -TCHC building (Not “his own building” as stated. Hundreds of other tenants likely live in that very same building.) Doesn't it concern you that maybe he used the same tactics while he was under house arrest? Do you even know if GPS trackers are vertically integrated to ensure that the individual actually stays in their own unit? It should give this CABR team pause that according to a tweet from TPS last week a 17 year old male who inflicted life altering head injuries to a 14 year old girl as a direct result of a gun discharge was similarly charged with two counts of failure to comply with a release order. Maybe he had a legally mandated curfew too.

Then there's the other brief description contained within this document of Black youth hanging out in the hallway. Im sorry that's loitering. That's public space for foot traffic passing through not a private parking space. It's not anyone's 'yahhhhd', as the Black lady down the hall refers to it when she's trying to eject clients/friends/family that got too drunk or too stoned from her unit, or, later when security,

whom she has at various times referred to as "Donald Trump", shows up at her door in the wee hours. Yeah, even during COVID19 lock downs.

Finally, I believe that if TCHC and CABR sincerely wanted to build bridges to create "transformational change" they'd construct two separate, overarching, information sharing, advocacy offices. One for staff and one for tenants. Right now, you're just building another island, with a very narrow definition of who can apply for citizenship status. You leave me no choice but to wait patiently, out here in my sail boat, in these shark infested waters, respectfully waiting for any sign, or, signal, that I'm welcome ashore. I'm tired of showing up where I don't belong.

Deputation - Natachez Feare
 Item 5 - TCHC's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy Development
 BOARD Public Meeting - February 26, 2021

24 February 2021

Board of Directors
 Toronto Community Housing Corporation
 931 Yonge Street
 Toronto, ON M4W 2H2

Re: Toronto Community Housing Corporation's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy

The purpose of this letter is to publicly and formally support the Confronting Anti-Black Racism (CABR) Strategy developed.

My name is Natachez Feare, I am a resident of the Lawrence Heights community and a Revite Ambassador. I have lived in this community for my entire life and my family has spent 3 generations here. My community means the world to me—our safety and wellbeing is of the utmost importance.

Growing up, I have always wanted to make a difference in my community. I am currently a student at the University of Waterloo studying Honours Media & Communications in an effort to shed a positive light on underserved communities, and highlight all of the brilliance and excellence that stems from our communities through the public media.

I, like many others, fear for my life too often. Gun violence has plagued my community. Many of us have PTSD and suffer from anxiety due to the violence. We have lost innocent lives. With the CABR 8-Point Plan, our mental health issues will be addressed and catered to—I believe having access to culturally responsive health and mental health services will help to support and treat the trauma that we have endured.

It is important to me that we as Black persons and people of colour have equal access to affordable housing, economic security, and uplifting support networks. Our wealth and wellbeing are in direct correlation with our financial independence, and I believe the CABR strategy will support this directly through programs, workshops, etc. We face anti-black racism in our daily lives and I dream of a world where we no longer suffer from these limitations and soul-diminishing boundaries.

I am a strong believer that our youth are our future. Investing in their futures and wellbeing will benefit us all. CABR's strategy to support healthy children, youth, and families is important and beneficial.

I am in support of any strategies that work to uplift and support our communities. The CABR strategy is one of determination and will produce real results. I support the 8-Point Plan wholeheartedly.

On behalf of myself and my family, thank you to the TCHC CABR team for the hard work that you all have invested into the benefit and wellbeing of our communities.

Best Regards,

Natachez Feare

Deputation - Dejazmatch James
Item 5 - TCHC's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy Development
BOARD Public Meeting - February 26, 2021

2021-02-25

Board of Directors
Toronto Community Housing Corporation
931 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4W 2H2

Re: Toronto Community Housing Corporation's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy

My name is Dejazmatch James, a member of the Lawrence Heights Change Makers, a group of Lawrence Heights residents that advocate for change in the community. As a 27-year old lifelong black resident, myself along with many others have experienced oppression, discrimination, and unfair treatment, due to the system that has been put in place to slow us down; which we can probably agree is why this Anti-Black Racism Strategy is now being brought to the table.

Some of the issues I am concerned with are but are not limited to: lack of resources, gun violence in the community, racism, and rent-to-own housing/home ownership. I also feel that some TCHC staff need to be more reflective of the community, not just black people, but black people who have lived experience in the community and that also meet the qualifications, and finally, lack of transparency, many residents have no idea of how TCHC plans on implementing a rent to own program, and how many units will be available for residents to have the opportunity to become homeowners.. We have many qualified residents in Lawrence Heights (undergrads, masters), who have persevered through many challenges. Having these leaders at the forefront and working with the community will definitely increase the relationship between residents and TCHC.

Areas in the strategy I believe will confront these issues are: the CSU being made up of community residents. Currently CSU is viewed as another form of enforcement, rather than being relationship-oriented.

Meaningful economic investment : as mentioned earlier, we need to see more of our people in these positions that are working within our communities. We also need to TCHC to work with residents and developers to find a way to bring rent to own housing to fruition. I'm talking about hundreds of units, there are ways to make it happen and ways where the community and housing could benefit.

Another area, healthy children, youth, and families : we need life changing programming, and not just temporary ones. I was an outreach coordinator with 37Kids this past summer, and really connected with youth on a deep social, and educational level, but after summer was over, that's it... I was able to steer some youth in the right direction in the span of a month, imagine what could happen with more time and more programming.

I hope with this CABR strategy, we will be able to work together to live and grow in a peaceful and prosperous community, one where residents notice the change, and children can go outside and play and not have to ask questions such as, "what are going to do if someone starts shooting at us".

Overall this strategy has been well put together. It shows that the community is involved. And that is what community engagement is about. It's no longer about the 'power-over' structure where

people who live outside the community are telling us what we need. Community engagement should always be about the 'power-with' structure, which is working together in an equal relationship so that all parties are satisfied.

Lawrence Heights resident,

Dejazmatch James



Deputation - Nasra Mohamed
Item 5 - TCHC's Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy Development
BOARD Public Meeting - February 26, 2021

Deputation Item: Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy

Nasra Mohamed



Hello, my name is Nasra Mohamed I come from Jane and Firgrove. I am here to support the push for the implementation of the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Strategy.

Anti-Black Racism in Toronto has traumatized our communities. It has criminalized, segregated and withheld resources. TCHC on levels demonstrates how racialized poverty is not properly tackled and needs dismantling.

CABR strategy allowed tenants to share their knowledge with a series of workshops facilitated by other residents. As a facilitator, I have witnessed fellow TCH residents be the experts on best practices they want to be implemented. They discussed experiences with relocation, maintenance, quality of units, policing and lack of recreational spaces. CABR strategy has also presented how tenants' have lost trust for these projects to follow through.

Community knowledge should not be extractive in nature. What this means is to follow through with no end point in mind. This initiative should be continuous to have a transformative and sustainable outcome. Now is the time to unwind the damage that has been done.

We cannot combat anti-black racism without addressing policing and hyper surveillance of our community. Why must policing have to start at our own home? It is very problematic that youth in the community have to face community safety unit before Toronto Police. These interactions subordinate people and contribute to the lack of safety. CABR strategy demonstrates ways we can re-imagine what safety looks like. The reviewing of the CSU budgets may help sustain the model of community programs funding stream. This includes compensation and creation of spaces which will increase capacity for us to handle ourselves. I ask the board to adopt the CABR strategy to provide some agency to community and Black staff in dismantling systemic racism in TCHC.

Toronto Community Housing

BRIEFING NOTE

To: Kevin Marshman

Friday February 26th, 2021

Subject: CABR (Confronting Anti-Black Racism)

Issue: Adopting the CABR Strategy

Greetings everyone,

Let me start off by giving thanks to my elders. Those who came before me, those whose shoulders I now stand on. I am here on behalf of them to continue to lend my voice in what ever way possible to advance then needs and abilities of the ones who follow behind me. I acknowledge and stand in solidarity with my fellow indigenous peoples here on Turtle Island and across the way, and to other marginalized folks wherever they may be.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the board for listening to me. The last time I came here in 2020 and before that in 2018, I warned you not to make me come here again and talk to you about considering to adopt an ABR lens for a 3rd time. Thank you for that. I also want to publicly state my excitement, pleasure and utmost respect for both the long standing history of advocacy and push that mainly Black people and Peoples of colour have been doing since before this moment within TCH, and to Evelyn Amponsah and Nadia Gouveia and the entire team of staff and students that worked together to bring us to this point (Safia, Brianna, Zainab, K'Mesha, Stephen, Nafisa, Vanessa, Charles and Natalie). To do CABR work of collecting, evaluating and presenting data (while living in our skin)

is by itself a full time job, on top of the ones they may also have (like Director, or Manager, partner, parent, daughter, or caregiver of some kind to family and friends alike. To both be the subject and the object of what you are gathering evidence to present can be an INCREDIBLY TAXING thing and can take an ENORMOUS TOLL on all aspects of your health if you are not careful. And while I AM here because of the work you all have done, I need you to know that your rest is equally as critical as the work, to this journey. So hopefully you can take a little break soon because you deserve it, and build those breaks in every so often, cause we need it. Evelyn, the people in my community are still talking about the conversation we had. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts, which brings me to the point of my message to the Board today.

This is the part of the journey where we the people pause. Pause to see what TCH Board will do because this is where the heavier lifting actually begins. The pause is where we, the powerful oppressed, the powerful marginalized determine how we need to move. Your decision today helps us clarify what we need to do and which way we need to go to continue our navigation towards equitable outcomes because make no mistake, we will always be pushing for the right thing. We will always be pushing for justice and to claim our right to be and to thrive. Adopting the CABR strategy today would send a message from TCH to it's partners like unions or other social housing supporting agencies that the people we serve are in need of, and deserve proper action now. To conclude, I think it would only be fitting, since we are in Black History Month and since brother Malcolm X is one of my all time favourite people, I am going to read his view on progress. Quote "...if you stick a knife in my back and pull it out six inches, that's not progress. You pull it all the way out that's not progress. Progress is [beginning to] heal the wound that the blow made [in the first place]..." We the powerful ones on the outside, have felt the blows. Some of us have transitioned from this life because of multiple blows. As the Board of the nation's largest housing provider, addressing this wound by adopting this CABR strategy is the progress we are looking for.

Thank you,

Zamani

From: Veronika hering <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2021 9:54 PM
To: Sonia Fung
Cc: victoriagibson@thestar.ca
Subject: This deputation on this issue of supports for drug users.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of Toronto Community Housing (TCHC). Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Say NO! NO! NO! To drug rehab facilities in TCHC Buildings this is not the way to go! With the Seniors, children and disabled being victims of outside drug users.

You are a landlord **not** a social service provider.

We do not support this proposal for the following reasons.

You need to deal with following:

- heating, air conditioning
- work order that take years to complete
- and need to respect all tenants and their opinions.

People are going to use drugs weather their are supports or not.

These type of things should be independently run by a rehab facility, or hospital. They are bound by privacy policy and will keep the identy of the tenant private.

TCHC staff does not always keep these things quiet. Some staff advertise it to the whole building which creates a whole host of other problem. When did our security guards get training to administer drugs to anyone? They are not paramedic they here to keep the peace among tenant and staff.

This will encourage special outside agencies to use all our rec space for cheap rent if any. This would leave nothing for tenants use.

It will set a president of favortisum to one special interest group which Toronto housing claims they do not support.

Why would you pave the way to supply needles and drugs to tenants on TCHC property.?

Are you going to support all the diabetics with real life support issues and provide needles they need to live?

Are you going to support the alcoholic's with all the booze they need to kill themselves?

Are you going to provide drugs to all the residents with real life medical issues. Like Epilepsy, Heart issues etc.

This will leads to crimes like break and enter, sexual assaults of residents, and drug dealer taking over the buildings. Residents will be harassed by other residents more often.

This will encourage people flopping in units, and they are not on the lease and they do not pay the rent. These illegal people will do drugs in our stairwells and common area.

You need to discourage drug use in our buildings and continue with evictions of people using illegal drugs and not bring needles to their units,

This will just encourage them to continue to use drug with no concern for other tenants. Who do not take drugs like this and make our lives harder.

TCHC says they will hear the tenant concerns, but will they hear them after you make the decision today? No! They will hold meetings to make it look good. They will call this tenant consultation but, will still do what you decided by putting in a staff vote if the tenants do not agree with this decision. TCHC does have medical information and cause of death in security reports and tenants files.

It is bad enough residents are allowed to grow 4 marijuana plants in their units that will encourage more illegal grow ops. Other tenants will get the repercussions of plant growing like black mold, bed bugs, cockroaches and noise in our halls all night by outsiders using drugs in our stairwells.

Toronto housing needs to keep the peace not encourage more disruptions to an already stress out life of your tenants.

You make the wrong decision you are going against your own policies the residents are allowed reasonable enjoyment of the premise.

Say **NO! No! No!** To this purposal today.

Veronika Hering

Stephanie Sinclair

Rob White

Residents of 1286 Wilson Ave

Deputation - Jonathan Valley
Item 6A - Harm Reduction Policy
BOARD Public Meeting - February 26, 2021

To the Board of Directors,

I am writing this deputation in emphatic support of the approval of the Harm Reduction Policy. I have lived in TCHC since for 7 years this month, and count myself lucky to live in a building with neighbours who are diverse, engaged, and always willing to look out for each other. It has been difficult, at times, for us to have honest conversations about safety and support for people who use drugs because of the various impacts of stigma and criminalization. I personally have administered Naloxone in our building twice, and have also directed people to accessing harm reduction supplies (however there are few options in my neighbourhood). Having a clear policy that centres the safety and well being of people who use drugs is critically important, as it will remove much of the grey area that clouds discussions with neighbours, staff and community members. Any such policy must be respected in a spirit of dignity and understanding for drug users, who are welcome and important members of my TCHC community.

I do notice that the policy falls short on several fronts: naloxone training should be mandatory for all staff, not optional. I also must note that the definition of “illegal act” and “safety” leave some discretionary leeway to be exploited against drug users discriminatorily with regards to eviction, and I hope that these are interpreted with the compassion and complexity they merit should they ever be invoked.

I also must make note of the short sightedness of some of the provisions in section 5.3 of the policy. I worry that the phrasing in 5.3.1 could be used to prevent the provision of clean, new supplies for people who use drugs, which are critical in preventing the spread of infections such as HIV, Hep C and COVID-19. Given that the next review of this item is not until 2023, I also struggle to understand the logic of disallowing even the possibility of safe consumption sites in section 5.3.2, and hope that any interpretation of this point would not disqualify the possibility of peer witnessing and other safe consumption practices that rely on trust and safe community spaces amongst neighbours and with staff.

These caveats aside, I applaud TCHC’s forward thinking approach and overall commitment to harm reduction practices. I look forward to seeing this policy in action and continuing to be an advocate for harm reduction at TCHC. Thank you

Jonathan Valelly