

Subject: URGENT NOTICE: The Delta Hotel/Shelter Extension – Economic & Development Meeting

Dear Mayor Chow, Economic Committee & Scarborough Councilors.

Scarborough United Neighbourhoods (SUN) was just informed of a proposed major decision which will be significantly detrimental not just with the Agincourt Village Community Association (AVCA) BUT also have an encompassing effect with all of Scarborough.

AVCA received an email about a proposed FIVE YEAR extension to renew the lease at The Delta Hotel for use as a Shelter. Note this information came only because AVCA is on the regular Community Liaison Committee, which AVCA regularly attends.

Agincourt Communities & Scarborough Residents have provided the below reasons to **Not Renew the Delta Hotel Lease at the Economic and Development Committee meeting on January 11, 2024.**

- The community was **not originally informed** regarding the proposed use of The Delta in 2020 as a shelter. The community was told several months ago that the owner of The Delta had submitted plans to renovate and would not extend the contract past August, 2024. The upcoming Economic and Development Committee meeting on January 11, 2024 **lacks transparency**, the agenda lists **Hotel extension contract as a “Confidential Attachment.”** Once again, our community is being sidelined from receiving information, being consulted and having a voice. It appears that continuous exclusionary practices of announcements without residential impact commentary by the existing residents and businesses.
- The social distancing requirements of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that Toronto had to replace traditional shelters with more expensive, lower density solutions. The Delta Hotel in Scarborough was part of an expedient solution to this. COVID-19 has ceased to be a pandemic. Spending the extra money to keep the Delta open is an extraneous expense which diverts funds that could be better used to provide housing for more people in a traditional setting. Keeping The Delta Shelter open reduces the overall number of shelter spots available.
- Extending The Delta Shelter Contract is not a solution - it is only a band-aid. The **City is obligated to find permanent solutions** that

include repurposing derelict city properties and increasing property tax on vacant commercial and residential properties, and not just housing a large mass of people in a transient hotel hoping for the best and increasing property tax on the average citizen to pay for these stays.

- The cost of housing the unhoused in a hotel is not an economical use of tax dollars - another solution is required. Estimated **costs of housing a resident at a “Hotel Shelter” is approximately \$250.00 per day**. That translates to an **estimated total of \$91, 250 per year per person**. Multiply that by the **400 people**, residing at The Delta – then there is the rest of the GTA! That represents **\$36.5 Million taxpayers’ dollars per year**.
- Of the **1200 people in the Shelter system being housed in hotels 400 are in The Delta**. One third (33%) are located in Scarborough! Why is it not being spread out equally across the GTA? The impact on Scarborough’s social services, hospitals and businesses has been great and stretched beyond capacity. Scarborough has been given very little in additional city resources/support to handle this influx of the unhoused (which includes family support, mental health, police support to name a few. Good will from local organizations, churches, and community associations have shown up to help but how sustainable is that long term?
- According to Public Health the maximum number in a single shelter should be no more than 60. **The Delta Shelter is 6 times over that maximum number**. Albeit a larger space has the ability to house more people, there is not support for the health and welfare of so many residents and as well not the ability to address the security issues of residents and surrounding neighbourhoods when conflict arises.
- Since the Delta Hotel became a shelter, the negative community impact since 2020 has included **tremendous pressure on 42 Police Division** to attend to the Delta regularly to resolve conflict with the addition of no extra staff. We have seen the impact of this on neighbouring businesses specifically with relation to delayed response times to non-violent crimes and increased costs to businesses having to hire security staff at their own expense. Some businesses have even had to close. Is this what we should expect from our city, these are growing pains that we just have to deal with?
- We have many visitors to Toronto for special events, some that were in the past hosted in Scarborough (of which we see very few now).

We are seeing fewer and fewer opportunities now as "**We do not have any Hotels in Scarborough**" that function to support tourism and events, much of the business is directed to Markham or Pickering. There are no hotels available in Scarborough for families visiting for conferences, tournaments, concerts, games, etc.

Scarborough is losing out on revenues and opportunities for business and jobs as we are being used more often than other parts of the city for refuge. We celebrate our ability to accommodate the less fortunate, but we relish the thought of losing all else that is great about Scarborough as our resources are depleted, and city dollars are spent on upkeep of hotel shelters rather than parks and community centres. Scarborough is losing business! Toronto is losing business!

- Scarborough will lose out regarding employment and business resulting from the World FIFA World Cup games in 2026. Again, Scarborough loses out! With the 2026 World FIFA Cup games hosted in Toronto, Scarborough will not see any of the business benefit from this as we do not have a place to offer visitors to stay that are coming to watch the games, which means our shops and restaurants will also not see any revenue from this huge event being hosted. With no increase in business, there will be no need to add employment opportunities to local residents of Scarborough.

The Scarborough-Agincourt Ward 22 Community as well as all Scarborough Wards expect and deserve to be involved as taxpayers and shareholders in the City and look forward to your immediate attention to this crucial matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhoda Potter
President
Agincourt Village Community Association

SUN (Scarborough United Neighbourhoods) looks forward to your support for all of Scarborough.

Sincerely
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