

Kamal Gogna, P. Eng
Interim Director, Deputy Chief Building Officer
Toronto Building
100 Queen St. West
Toronto

Re: Order to Remedy Unsafe Building # 19 261013 UNS VI dated December 13, 2019

I am writing to express my serious concern about the quality, inhumanity and lack of collaborative intent within this report. It is simply abhorrent to read a list of technical and structural liabilities present in this aged but graceful building; without any reference, *at all*. to its place in the community or its role in providing homes for the people who live, work and thrive there. When you review this building's issues, try to remember it is more than bricks and mortar. It is the people who live there, not just the cement, exit doors or its permit / code status.

I am shocked to see that the City of Toronto / Buildings is more concerned with presenting evidence building safety concerns in concert with legality and reporting gap, than using its expertise to suggest problem-solving strategies, in which the City uses its assets to facilitate tenant security rather than eviction into homelessness. I support the immediate actions to be taken but dare I say, you could certainly go much deeper with respect to building safety / development support. This could start with changing your safety time frame and defining it within a more fully realized housing security goal. I mean, we need to grab on to the opportunities arise for securing safe affordable housing such as this property represents. We do not need 60-day safety band-aid linked to foreclosure.

None of this is in your letter. What I hold in my hand is a heartless and technocratic vision, one that makes a mockery of the City's stated concerns for tenant safety. Your letter's proposal to remedy the fire safety concerns, land use permissions, payment of development charges, educational development charges ... and all the other items listed....by evicting people from their homes may be your administrative solution, *but it is not a solution that the wider community will ever accept. It destroys lives. It does not protect them*

I live in an old warehouse loft conversion in Parkdale. So, after 12 years on its board, I am aware of the many challenges that can be faced with older building conversions going through various development stages. My building faced fire safety issues, permit inspection challenges. But with one difference. We never faced shut down orders from the City. Could this be because the folks living here (myself included) had the enhanced privilege of higher income levels?

And there is another factor affecting the views I am sharing with you. I have been a homeless activist for 40 years. And over the course of those years I have been a responder to many mass evictions. In fact, I was a critical player in creating the Wood Green Community Service Critical Response Program you are directing tenants towards.

I have worked with the WG program many times. My last partnership with them was to respond to a condo developer who evicted 26 tenants on to the streets, to pave their way towards a proposed 8 story development. Shocking. Yes. Devastating yes (one tenant committed suicide) Displacement from the community, friends and family: Yes

But never, would I ever dream that City of Toronto would dare use the Wood Green Program to support its own eviction activities. In a City where there are 12,000 homeless people and where low- income people simply cannot find a place with affordable rent. This is more than a tragedy. I consider it an act of social and homeless displacement make me do everything I can do, in my power, to mobilize other activists against your stated report's intention.

Bob Rose
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