

October 4, 2019

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Letter to Cabbagetown South:

I am writing today with regard to plans for relocating the women's drop-in program from 67 Adelaide Street to 233 Carlton Street East. I understand that this news has come as a surprise to the community. I would like to provide some background and information on this site and to clarify actions to date and next steps.

Shelter, Support & Housing Administration (SSHA) staff are currently acting under delegated authority to address the urgent need for more shelter spaces in the City of Toronto, in order to address the growing number of individuals who are living with homelessness. As part of this work, staff have been identifying suitable sites for new shelters and optimizing the use of space for existing services. 67 Adelaide Street was identified as a suitable site for adaptation to a shelter and staff executed a lease agreement at 233 Carlton Street to relocate the Adelaide Resource Centre women's drop-in program.

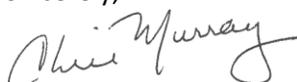
SSHA staff met with Ward 13 Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam in July 2019 to brief her on these plans and to receive her feedback. The Councillor raised several concerns relating to mental health, addictions, safety, and housing needs in the area impacting both residents and vulnerable populations. These concerns were acknowledged, and staff agreed to work with the Councillor and the community to ensure those were addressed through further community engagement and program design, in order for the drop-in to be successful. Notice for the lease of this property was recently posted on the City's website, it incorrectly identified that no objections had been identified by the Councillor, and this will be corrected.

The authority delegated to staff includes a customised engagement process that provides residents with the opportunity to share their concern and work together with City staff to ensure the success of a new service. Generally, that process begins 6 to 9 months before the service opens. The project at 233 Carlton is in the earliest parts of the design stage and is not expected to open until the end of 2020, as such the City has not yet initiated that engagement process.

The community should not have learned about this indirectly. For this I apologize. Our goal is always to engage residents early, coming to a common understanding of the challenges before us, and working to ensure the relocated drop-in program is a success for everyone. Going forward, staff will make every effort to correct this by reaching out to key neighbourhood stakeholders, providing additional information and working together to identify how best to engage with the community as the project proceeds.

We look forward to engaging with the community on welcoming the services that will be provided at 233 Carleton and supporting the service to be a positive addition to the neighbourhood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Murray".

Chris Murray  
City Manager