

COMMUNITY ALERT: Response to the proposed Methadone Clinic at Dundas and Ontario.

Community Meeting: Daniels Presentation Centre, 500 Dundas Street East (north side, 1 block east of Parliament)  
Thursday Oct 13, 7-9 pm  
**Please forward to your contacts in the area.**

Following on our report yesterday, we met Oct. 6, 2011, with the owner of property at the northeast corner of Dundas and Ontario. A summary of the meeting:

**Present:**

Pam McConnell, Councillor; Superintendent of Toronto Police Service; Staff Sergeant of Toronto Police Service Division 51; Staff Sergeant from Toronto Police Division 55; Inspector Toronto Police; City of Toronto Planning Dept; Toronto Public Health reps; Regent Park Health Centre; Council Fire reps; Daniels Corporation; Cabbagetown South Residents Association; Ontario Street Residents Action Community; Social Planning Toronto; Lord Dufferin School; Central Neighbourhood House; Local Business Owners; Tenant: Towards Recovery Clinics – Dr. Baljit S.Gill, CEO; Landlord: Greg Harmandayan

**Purpose:** To discuss the proposed methadone clinic at the north east corner of Dundas and Ontario

Pam outlined the history of the issuing of the building permit which was clearly done without disclosing the proposed use of the building.

Pam, and us, outlined the issues with such a business in the area:

- safety of residents, children, seniors
- safety of children walking to school from Moss Park to CNH
- security of the residents throughout the area
- safety of residents using the TTC stop
- safety of residents to walk to local businesses such as Freshco

Daniels outlined the negative implications to the development of Regent Park and how the proposed project will slow momentum towards the future ongoing area improvements that are important to the whole City.

The police outlined the investigations they have done at other clinics operated by this tenant:

- Hamilton: Toronto police witnessed loitering, drug dealing and other unsavoury activity such that when they saw some Hamilton police, they identified themselves, provided their observations and the Hamilton police made some arrests
- St. Catherines: Toronto police witnessed similar negative activity at this location.
- They also provided statistics – 2,260 calls year to date within 500 meters of the proposed location which is 20% of the calls to 51 Division; 233 violent calls from January to May this year which is 19% of all calls to 51 Division.

Community agencies expressed concern that the proposed clinic was not consistent with the work they were doing.

With strong effort by residents and Pam, we obtained an agreement from the tenant that construction would be stopped until next week. In addition, the landlord indicated to us that he would consider ways of releasing the tenant from their lease obligations however there was nothing conclusive.

Next Steps:

Since we don't yet have a commitment to stop the clinic, we are organizing a Community Action Meeting for next Thursday, Oct 13th. We need to respond assertively. Bring your ideas, contributions and commitment to develop actions to stop the methadone clinic.

Cabbagetown South Residents' Association  
October 6, 2011