

Good afternoon Mr Mayor, city councilors, fellow citizens and neighbours. I am grateful that I have the opportunity to speak to you all today.

My husband Dave and I bought our house on **Toledo** two years ago, and what made us decide to live here was the quiet neighborhood, the beautiful greenspace and treeline behind our backyard, and the easily accessible nature trails from Toledo st. This is such a special area, so quiet and peaceful, we feel very privileged to be a part of it.

In regards to the new development proposal, we are not against the idea of adding housing at 791 Arundel st. However, we are convinced that the proposed **600 units** is too large in scale to allow a harmonious integration with the surrounding neighbourhood.

That being said, I am speaking today mainly about the need to keep a **tree-lined greenspace easement** between the houses on Toledo and any new development.

I would like to say a few words about all the benefits we have enjoyed having this greenspace with mature trees backing onto our property.

These tall trees provide us with a natural **privacy screen**, and beautiful scenery behind our property, that we enjoy every day. The ambient noise of the wind moving through the leaves and branches, and the great variety of birdsong provides a natural sound overlay, that helps minimize the sounds of cars and trucks from Arundel and the nearby highway. The trees also improve our air quality and provide shade.

There is also always something new and interesting to see, as many birds and animals are always visiting, nesting, feeding on berries and seeds, or just passing through. **We moved here because of our great love for nature, and our desire to live in harmony with it.**

When we saw the image the city provided of the proposed new development, we were shocked by the invasive nature of its appearance. I know it is being said that it is " just a concept" but since this is all we have to go on, it appears to us that the developer plans to remove all the existing mature trees, and put in a concrete perimeter, populated by a

few small, thinly spaced out evergreens, that will likely take years to provide any kind of effective privacy screen for us and our neighbours.

This loss of natural greenspace and privacy would also certainly **negatively affect the value of our properties**, and we would lose most of the benefits that the current mature treeline offers.

We are asking the city to keep the tree-lined trail that so many people use every day intact, and preserve the treeline behind our fences that shield our yards, and give us so much beauty, happiness, and peace of mind. More trees could be planted at the beginning of Toledo as well, to fill in the gap and form a continuous treeline, so that all of the homeowners can have **privacy and a peaceful environment**.

We the homeowners are asking the city to ensure the developer maintains a **natural greenspace corridor easement** between the affected properties on Toledo and the new housing. This will provide us all an effective privacy buffer zone. This, and the preservation of the walking path, will also help to integrate and harmonize any new mid-rise build space with the quiet and peaceful character of the neighbourhood. In our view this would fulfil two of the cities stated objectives, preserving greenspace, and adding density to the area. **This vital natural landscape will then continue to benefit wildlife, visitors, and residents old and new, now, and into the future.**

Thank you all for your time and consideration.

Carol Prince

- The attached visual materials are all photographs that I have taken from my backyard, with the exception of the photo of the trail from Toledo





