

Nicole Milrose

From: Edwige Jean-Pierre <edwige_jeanpierre@yahoo.ca>
Sent: October-04-17 10:12 PM
To: Nicole Milrose
Cc: Councillor Palacio; Councillor Bailao; cmartins.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org; Julie.Dzerowicz@parl.gc.ca; Mayor Tory
Subject: Letter of objection - Re: Proposed development at 49 and 51 Springmount Avenue

Dear Nicole,

My name is Edwige Jean-Pierre and I am a resident of 53 Springmount Avenue. My husband and I have been living in here for close to four years.

These houses have been here for almost a century. They were purpose-built to be rental units dating back to the 1920's. They were built so that multiple families could live here affordably.

As you know, we are in the middle of an affordable housing crisis. Making more housing for the ultra-rich is destructive to our close knit community. Going over the proposal for Springmount Avenue, there's reason to believe that Mr. Richard Wengle's architecture firm's ultimate goal is to demolish all five houses from 49 to 55 Springmount. Here's a quote from an article in the Toronto Star, published on May 5, 2011: "Architect Richard Wengle, whose sign often appears on the freshly cleared lots, is now reluctant to speak with the press about his work in the neighbourhood, although he told the *Globe and Mail* in 2006 that his firm had worked on approximately 50 teardowns, with the **new-look mansions selling for twice what their owners had paid for the original properties.**"

It's one thing to demolish homes that are vacant, but to demolish homes that are currently occupied--frankly boggles my mind. I understand that we live in a capitalist society, but when does gentrification at the expense of the poor, working-class, artists and the elderly stop?

Furthermore, these houses were built on top of a slope. Demolishing them, even if it's just two houses-- for starters, will change the landscape of Springmount Avenue for the absolute worse. Beautiful, historic neighbourhoods like Regal Heights shouldn't be desecrated by "McMansions".

More than 86% of Ontarians live in urban areas, increasingly cut off from our natural environment. It has been a privilege to live here—I've never taken it for granted. How wonderful it is to be able to see trees and wildlife just outside my window. Mr. Wengle's development plan will wreak havoc to the surroundings. The health of our community depends on people doing their part by appreciating and honouring Regal Height's richness and beauty. This is why I am in complete opposition to the proposed redevelopment of 49 and 51 Springmount Avenue.

Regards,
Edwige Jean-Pierre