

March 26, 2025

Re: Indwell's Zoning By-law Amendment Application for 120 Wentworth St N

Dear Chair and Members of the Planning Committee,

I am writing in support of Indwell's application for a zoning by-law amendment to develop new affordable housing at 120 Wentworth Street North, known as Wentworth Baptist church. I write to you as a resident of the Gibson neighbourhood living on [REDACTED]. I have been involved in community engagement for more than a decade, founding and leading volunteer groups including GALA Community Planning Team and Beautiful Alleys and I have followed and anticipated this project from the start.

Indwell's adaptive reuse plan for the property, developed in partnership with the Wentworth Baptist Church congregation, responds to the needs of the Gibson and Landsdale neighbourhoods. The development will provide 50 units of affordable, supportive housing in addition to renovating the church hall and gymnasium for Indwell, church, and community groups to use. There is a great need for affordable housing in our community, in the context of rising rents and growing homelessness. There is also a shortage of spaces for community groups to hold meetings and events. Prior to the sale of the Church, our community planning team, GALA, hosted their meetings at the church.

Recently, I faced the possibility of being houseless. After 14 years, my landlord was selling the home I lived in, in a community that I was heavily invested in. It was important to find a place nearby so I could continue my work. I was able to find a house on the same street but at 3 times the rent I could afford. That necessitated making life changes and sharing my space. This project will provide much needed affordable, supportive housing and a community space.

Indwell is a reputable charity that provides high-quality, supportive, affordable housing in several locations across Hamilton. Indwell excels in this work and contributes positively to our community.

I believe the requested rezoning application to a Mixed Use Medium Density Zone and requested site-specific provisions for building setback, built form, minimum rear yard and side yard, and landscaped areas are reasonable and should be supported.

Thank you for noting my support as you consider Indwell's application.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Brenda Duke

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]