



541 Barton St. East
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April 2, 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 on behalf of 541 Eatery & Exchange in strong support of Indwell's application for a zoning by-law amendment to develop affordable housing at 120 Wentworth Street North.

As Executive Director of 541 Eatery & Exchange, a community-based non-profit café and gathering place located just a few blocks from the proposed site, I witness daily the impacts of housing insecurity and poverty in our neighbourhood. We serve many community members who are struggling to make ends meet or are experiencing homelessness. We believe deeply in the right of every person to have safe, affordable housing—and in the strength of communities that care for their neighbours.

Indwell's proposed development reflects the kind of compassionate, thoughtful, and community-rooted solution we need in the Gibson and Landsdale neighbourhood. The adaptive reuse of Wentworth Baptist Church for both faith-based and community purposes, alongside the construction of 50 deeply affordable housing units, is an example of what it looks like to "make room"—a value we share at 541. It's not just a housing project—it's a vision for inclusion, dignity, and hope.

We also believe the requested rezoning and site-specific provisions are both reasonable and necessary to make this project viable. Indwell's track record across Hamilton and beyond demonstrates their commitment to excellent design, accessibility, and long-term stewardship. Their programs prioritize wellness, inclusion, and stability, all of which align closely with our mission to cultivate belonging and reduce social isolation.

In a time of escalating housing need—with over 6,000 households on the affordable housing waitlist and more than 1,200 people unhoused in Hamilton—this development is not only appropriate, it is urgent. We encourage the Planning Committee to support this application without delay.

Thank you for considering our perspective as neighbours, partners, and fellow builders of a more inclusive community.

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Warmly,

Justin Eisinga

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