

MOTION

Recognizing the Victoria Village Community

Moved by: Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong

SUMMARY:

The City of Toronto is known for being a city of neighbourhoods. Depending on the source, the city has upwards of 240 distinct neighbourhoods within its boundaries. These neighbourhoods are based on history, geography, built form and sense of place.

Victoria Village was created in the 1950's and is a "self contained community" with its own schools, shopping, parks and industry. Geographically it is bordered on the north by CN railway track and Lawrence Ave, by Victoria Park Ave. on the east, on the west by the Charles Sauriol Conservation Area and ravine and on the south by Eglinton Ave.

It is a quiet stable residential neighbourhood, characterized by single family homes in its centre, with low rise apartments along its peripheries of Victoria Park Ave. and Eglinton Ave. There are two public schools in the neighbourhood, Victoria Village Public School and Sloane Ave. Public School. Most children attending these schools come from Victoria Village. The Victoria Village Library is a small library branch which serves mostly local residents. Many of the residents who choose to move into "The Village" make it their life long home. Several Victoria Village residents have lived in the Village for over 40 or 50 years

The Village takes a great deal of pride in their neighbourhood.

Divisions within the City of Toronto have arbitrarily changed the boundaries of the Victoria Village Community south past Eglinton Ave. East to the border between the old municipalities of East York and North York. This is incorrect; Victoria Village never comprised this area.

In addition for planning purposes, City Divisions have combined the Flemingdon Park community with the Victoria Village Community.

Flemingdon Park and Victoria Village have always been recognized as separate and distinct neighbourhoods, each with its own history and its own unique character. Flemingdon Park for example, is well recognized as Canada's first completely planned "apartment city," while Victoria Village was modelled after earlier subdivisions in Don Mills.

The City of Toronto itself recognized the existence of these neighbourhoods when it created neighbourhood profiles in the former municipalities, to help government and community agencies with their local planning, by defining planning areas and providing socio-economic data for a geographic area.

The boundaries for these neighbourhood profiles were developed largely by respecting the boundaries of these pre-existing neighbourhoods; 140 of which are listed on the city's website and over 200 mapped on an Urban Development Services Residential Communities map.

Not only are Victoria Village and Flemington Park two separate neighbourhoods based on history, planning boundaries, geography and census data, they are separate and distinct in the consciousness of the people who live there. To many long-time residents of Victoria Village, arbitrarily joining Flemington Park and Victoria Village together is simply wrong.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the city recognize Victoria Village as a community with the following borders: on the north by CN railway track and Lawrence Ave, by Victoria Park Ave. on the east, on the west by the Charles Sauriol Conservation area and ravine and on the south by Eglinton Ave.
2. That the city recognize Flemington Park as a distinct community separate from the Victoria Village Community.
3. That City Divisions properly recognize and reflect the distinctiveness of these communities in their service planning areas.