



EX16.21.1

Deputy Mayor

Vincent Crisanti



June 27nd, 2016

Mayor John Tory, Chair - Executive Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: EX16.21 - Schools as Community Assets: Review and Prioritization of 23 Toronto District School Board Properties (Ward All)

Dear Mayor John Tory and Executive Committee Members,

I am writing with respect to the TDSB school disposition activities and the Thistletown Multi-Service Centre. This centre is an essential facility, vital to the families, seniors and youth that live in my Ward.

It is important that we recognize Thistletown as a site distinct from the other TDSB properties that are declared for surplus. Thistletown has been leased by the City for more than 35 years, and houses the Thistletown Community Hub. The current lease generates more than \$1.7 million in revenue to the TDSB, with the City covering all operating and capital expenses associated to this site. To date the City has invested more than 30 million dollars into this property and it is time that we remove all uncertainty over its future by purchasing it from the TDSB.

Thistletown offers essential services, including fee/non-fee subsidy childcare, a community centre operated by Parks, Forestry & Recreation and the non-profit Rexdale Woman's Centre. Other tenants include the Albion Islington BIA, the Rexdale Soccer Club, the Canadian Somali Association and the Thistletown Senior's Centre.

It is paramount that we allow staff to work toward the acquisition of this property to ensure that the Thistletown community retains the services provided through this hub.

I am requesting that the Executive Committee unanimously support recommendation 2.a. to allow the CCO to negotiate and submit an offer for the acquisition of the Thistletown Multi-Service Centre, funded from the balance of the Land Acquisition Reserve Fund allocated to the School Lands Acquisition Framework and with additional contribution of funding from the Parkland Acquisition Reserve Funds.

I am confident that Council will pursue a coordinated response to retain this Community Hub as a vital piece of public infrastructure in our City, which is crucial to the social fabric of my Ward. Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

Deputy Mayor Crisanti
Councillor, Ward 1 - Etobicoke North

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City Hall | 100 Queen Street West | 2nd Floor - C54 | Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Tel: 416-392-0205 | Fax: 416-696-4207 | vcrisan@toronto.ca | www.vincentcrisanti.ca