



Executive Committee
City Clerk, Julie Amoroso
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, Suite C55
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Thursday May 30, 2019

Dear Executive Committee Members Re. Item Number EX7.5:

I am writing as the co-chair of the Go Green Youth Centre (formerly Go Green Cricket & Sports Field), which offers free youth-led sports & recreational programming to children aged seven and up living in the Neighbourhood Improvement Area of Thorncliffe Park and Flemingdon Park.

Our organization started as a grassroots community group in 2010 and raised \$1.55 million to revitalize the backyard of Valley Park Middle School. We relocated school portables and sub-licensed adjacent Hydro land to create a large multi-sport community cricket field and picnic ground that is surrounded by a bioswale, wetland, urban forest and butterfly meadow. The revitalized facility opened in 2015.

In 2017, we added LED sports lights, practice cages, a sound system and scoreboard for an additional \$850,000. We now fundraise to operate and organize youth-led year-round programming and directly serve more than 350 youth annually; not including the 1200 VPMS students who share our site during the academic year.

One of the reasons we revitalized the school facility was to respond to urgent demand reported by residents for additional recreational space where children could safely play. The dearth of available recreational space was highlighted in numerous studies at the time including focus group research conducted with VPMS students in Toni Boston's Understanding Thorncliffe Park (2010). And also, the Don Valley Learning Immigration Partnership Report (The LIP Report), an action plan report commissioned by Citizenship and Immigration Canada in August, 2010.

The neighbourhoods in my opinion continue to suffer from an inadequate supply of accessible and safe recreational spaces despite very modest improvements by the City at the Jenner James Community Centre and Angela James Arena. I am writing therefore to endorse your support of a larger development and concentration of City financial resources by The City Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department in favour of the creation of one major Don Mills recreation complex on the Celestica lands on Don Mills Road north of Eglinton Avenue.

Its central location, collection of recreational amenities, and proximity to the new LRT will make it a destination landmark site capable of properly accommodating the growth from the new Don Mills Crossing community, development at Eglinton Avenue and Leslie Street and youth and their families living in the TP and FP communities.

Given the intense funding pressure the City is under, it seems contrary and short sighted to split resources to create two less than adequate facilities at Celestica and alternate Shops at Don Mills proposal. I do hope that the needs of all stakeholders and the broader community as a whole will be considered and a sensible and sound financial decision is made. Thank you,

Lisa Grogan-Green, Co-chair

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and