



September 30, 2019

TO: Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council

FROM: Justin Van Dette, President
East York Hall of Fame

Subject: Motion MM 10.4 – Grandparenting the use of City Facilities of Legacy Events

On behalf of the East York Hall of Fame, I am writing in support of **MM 10.4 – Grandparenting the use of City Facilities for the Family of Legacy Events**, a motion moved by Councillor Paula Fletcher, which is before you this week for a decision.

We are hoping that you will pass this motion as the success of the decision will likely mean the continued survival for a number of long-standing East York organizations and events that they organize in support of community groups and charities.

A number of these community organizations are in fact charities that operate on thin budgets but impact the lives of so many people – Food Banks, Meals on Wheels and Big Brothers and Big Sisters Clubs – just to name a few.

Since amalgamation was forced upon us in 1998, East Yorkers have continued to step up, year after year, and organize important events, awareness campaigns and, more importantly, raise monies for charities. We are so proud of our community then when the City of Toronto inappropriately removed the East York logos from our public spaces in 2016, we raised a big fuss and we were grateful that Toronto City Council corrected the problem. Cherishing the history of our community is very important to all of us.

Like the other former municipalities that made up Metropolitan Toronto, East York is a very proud, closely-knit community. The community events that depends on the success of this motion, such as the East York Canada Day Festival, the East York Seniors Christmas Day Dinner, the Agnes Macphail Awards Ceremony and the East York Rotary TV Auction have been in existent for decades.

They are signature events that families are always looking forward to enjoying. The East York Rotary Club has been the lead organizer of the Rotary TV Auction where tens of thousands of dollars is raised each year Rotary then turns over a large number of profits to the community through various initiatives and organizations. It truly underscores the word 'fun' in fundraising.

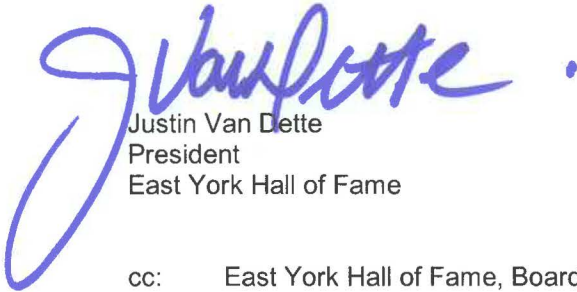
Saying NO to this motion will likely put some of these events in jeopardy and could result in them turning to the City of Toronto for financial assistance, putting pressure on the City Budget, through your grants program.

Volunteers are proud to do this work and we hope you will allow us to continue to do what we enjoy doing on our public spaces.

We also hope that you will consider convening a meeting of the Toronto-East York Community Council in the coming months in the True Davidson Council Chambers at the East York Civic Centre – the former home of our East York City Hall. As Councillor Bradford made the case earlier this year, our community would love to host all of you.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge and thank Councillor Paula Fletcher for her leadership on this issue. We are very grateful for the amount of time that she has put into this, which will make a big difference to East York and ensure our legacy events continue to operate in the years to come

Sincerely,



Justin Van Dette
President
East York Hall of Fame

cc: East York Hall of Fame, Board of Directors
Hon. Alan Redway, former Mayor, Borough of East York
East York Rotary Club
East York Foundation
Agnes Macphail Committee
East York Canada Day Committee