

John Elvidge - City of Toronto Clerk
Toronto City Hall
13th fl. W., 100 Queen St. W.
Toronto ON M5H 2N2
clerk@toronto.ca

01/27/2021

RE: Item No. CC28.10 - The OPA Amendment No. 231 – Appeal 134 by Downsview Park and Canada Lands Company
(for City Council consideration on February 2, 2021)

Dear Mr. Elvidge,

The Duke Heights BIA is writing this letter to express its strong support for the re-designation of lands as proposed in Amendment No. 231 in the Downsview Official Plan. It is our belief that this land-use conversion will help to trigger the renewal and revitalization of the Downsview area, generating a host of benefits for the entire community and for the city as a whole.

The decision by Bombardier to relocate its manufacturing facilities means that on-site jobs will be moving – along with the de-commissioning of the runway and airport. For decades, that single employer has been the anchor of employment at Downsview. Its departure requires that we act now with a ready plan to attract new employers and re-imagine the entire community. Too much is at stake to wait until Bombardier has already left.

The approach outlined by Downsview's owners - Northcrest Developments and Canada Lands Company – is both responsible and encouraging. It paints a vivid picture of Downsview's future, one that includes new employers and new jobs, added housing supply including new affordable housing stock, plans for better connecting and moving people in and around the area with better utilization of existing transit hubs, new community infrastructure and a network of parks and natural spaces, creating a green canopy for the northwest of Toronto - anchored by the Downsview Park.

Obviously, this vision will not be realized overnight. But the vote on conversion is the first step – a necessary step - to unleash needed momentum toward the achievement of key benefits. In support of all of this, we would also note that the vital process of communicating with and gathering input from local residents has begun already. To date, some 80 groups and hundreds of individuals have contributed their ideas and reactions. More is needed and more is planned. But this clear commitment to local engagement and outreach is encouraging.

Our BIA is immediately adjacent to the North of the Downsview Lands. We are fully aware of all the issues involved and find the proposals to be supportive of our own objectives. Therefore, we hope that City Council will support the Proposed Settlement.

Thank you in advance for your favourable consideration.

Sincerely,
Dr. Lew Pliamm



Chair of the Board of Directors
DUKE Heights BIA

cc. Councillor James Pasternak, Ward 6 York Centre
Chris Eby, Executive Vice-President, Northcrest Developments
David Anselmi, Senior Director, Real Estate, Canada Lands Company
Ian Hanecak, Manager, Community & Stakeholder Relations, Northcrest Developments