

**From:** [McGill Granby](#)  
**To:** [Economic and Community Development](#)  
**Cc:** [mgvraboard@gmail.com](mailto:mgvraboard@gmail.com); [Ward-13](#); [Zahrah Munas](#)  
**Subject:** LOS - Downtown East Action Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 5, 2022 3:14:06 PM  
**Attachments:** [LOS DTE recs - MGVRA.pdf](#)

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Hello,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the McGill Granby Village Residents' Association, I have attached a letter of support related to the Downtown East Action Plan - Implementation Progress and Next Steps. We are very supportive of the recommendations put forward for consideration at tomorrow's meeting. Please let the Board know if anything else is needed from us.

Best regards,  
Kelly McDonald, President  
McGill Granby Village Residents' Association



## McGill Granby Village Residents' Association

July 5, 2022

Dear Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

The McGill Granby Village Residents' Association (MGVRA) represents residents in the area bounded by Yonge, Carlton, Jarvis and Gerrard Streets. One of the objectives of the MGVRA is to promote all measures which enhance the safety and general quality of residential life in the area. Our neighbourhood is located squarely in Downtown East Toronto, and we are directly impacted by the needs of the people in the area and the services offered to them.

The Board of the MGVRA strongly supports the recommendations of the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration that will be put forward at the Committee meeting on July 6, 2022. In particular, we strongly endorse the recommendation that City Council requests collaboration and direct partnership with the Province of Ontario and the Government of Canada to establish and implement the priorities in the Downtown East Action Plan related to health, including mental health, and supportive housing and housing stability programs.

The Downtown East 2023 Five Year Action Plan was first put forward long before anyone had heard of COVID-19. Even then it was recognized that "needs in the area include... supportive housing, crisis intervention, services for all community members including people who are homeless and actions to address safety concerns in the area." The Plan noted that the area is "home to marginalized people, defined as those at risk because of a lack of affordable and supportive housing, access to safe drug supply, or adequate mental health services and supports." The pandemic and its impact on the downtown core have only exacerbated all of the issues the Downtown East Five Year Action Plan aims to address.

Over the past 30 months, our neighbourhood has seen a significant increase in the number of homeless individuals congregating on private property, encampments in our parkettes, used needles littering driveways and parks, and open drug use and drug dealing. It is common to see people in crisis walking down our streets. Many residents are no longer comfortable walking in our neighbourhood after dark, and now avoid the small amount of greenspace available to us because of encampments, litter and used needles. The southeast corner of Yonge and Carlton and the entrance to the College subway station has been the subject of numerous complaints. Small groups of under-housed individuals clearly in need of community services gather here to take drugs and pass the day.

The scope of the problems facing Downtown East are beyond the jurisdiction of the City. Adequate funding for housing and health services, and the delivery of those services, must involve the provincial and federal governments. It is only with their collaboration and partnership that timely improvements can be made to Downtown East Toronto. The members of our community deserve better and need hope that the situation will improve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments.

Sincerely,  
McGill Granby Village Residents' Association Board of Directors