



MARY FRAGEDAKIS

City Councillor, Ward 29



June 28, 2011

Chair and Councillors
Government Management Committee
c/o Merle MacDonald

Dear Chair and Members of the Government Management Committee:

RE: GM5.16 - Extension of Below Market Rent Occupancy at 666 Eglinton Avenue West – Forest Hill Art Club

I am writing in support of this recommendation as it an integral part of an elegant solution to an issue in implementing both the City's Below Market Rent Policy and the recommendations of the "*Creative Capital Gains: An Action Plan for Toronto*" report, which City Council unanimously adopted on May 18, 2011.

Both of the arts groups involved, the Forest Hill Art Club (FHAC) and the Don Valley Art Club (DVAC), have a long history of serving the community. DVAC was established over 60 years ago and traditionally presents three exhibitions per year. FHAC has been housed at 666 Eglinton Avenue West for more than 40 years. The community FHAC serves will not be well served by forcing it to move, especially the many senior citizens who make up its membership.

As it states in the Preface to the "*Creative Capital Gains*" report, it is groups like these that infuse life into our City and contribute to Toronto's cultural and creative capital, which in turn, as the report notes, "creates businesses, attracts new residents from around the world, draws in tourists, increases quality of life for its current residents, and gives commuters from the suburbs a reason to stay in the city after office hours." That report goes on to say that, to compete, Toronto must do more to support culture; to not support this recommendation would be to do less.

By coming together to help one another to continue to animate this City through arts and culture, these two art clubs have shown the kind of leadership that is an example for all of us. So, I ask that we support them in their mission by supporting this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Mary Fragedakis
Councillor, Ward 29
Toronto-Danforth

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