March 28, 2012

Ms Brenda Patterson
Deputy City Manager
City of Toronto, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
11th Floor, East Tower
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Ms Patterson,

RE: Toronto Community Housing Corporation – Request for Consent from City of Toronto and Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing for Revitalization of Alexandra Park, Phase One

We are writing with respect to the proposed revitalization of Alexandra Park by Toronto Community Housing. As you know, Toronto Community Housing has announced its intention to redevelop Alexandra Park, in part through the sale of the land. The plan calls for the retention of 806 social housing units with the replacement of the 333 units being demolished and the refurbishment of the remaining 473 units over the next 10 to 15 years. Toronto Community Housing’s Board of Directors approved the submission of the Phase One planning application in May 2010.

Toronto Community Housing expects to begin Phase One construction in the spring of 2013. The geographic boundaries of Phase One are shown on the map attached to this letter (“Phase One”). Toronto Community Housing’s objective for Phase One is to construct approximately 492 market units, demolish 106 rent geared-to-income (“RGi”) social housing units and replace 76 of those units.

By this letter, Toronto Community Housing is requesting:

(i) consent from the City of Toronto (“City”) as shareholder to undertake the revitalization of Alexandra Park; and

(ii) that the City of Toronto in its capacity as Service Manager, seek the consent of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (the "Minister") to the sale of portions of Phase One as required under s.50(1) of the Social Housing Reform Act, 2000.

As you know, the revitalization of Alexandra Park is part of Toronto Community Housing’s Housing Works strategy aimed at maintaining our portfolio in a good state of repair. The Alexandra Park revitalization offers to improve the quality of the existing social housing units in a manner similar to what has been achieved at Regent Park. It will also provide better living conditions for tenants through more usable exterior open space, enlarged amenity spaces, connectivity through the site and to the surrounding neighbourhood, street frontage and improved access. Like Regent Park, energy efficiency will be an organizing principle for the revitalization as the savings we achieve in operating costs are essential to the financial success of the project.
As in Toronto Community Housing’s other revitalizations, this is about more than bricks and mortar. The community has played a huge role in the development of the revitalization plan during more than three years of consultation and discussion. The plan reflects many of the aspirations expressed by residents such as the retention of most of the townhouses and improved community facilities.

Our engagement efforts have also included local agencies, Business Improvement Areas, resident associations, neighbours and the local Councillor who all support the revitalization effort.

As in Regent Park, Toronto Community Housing will be creating employment, social enterprise, economic and other opportunities for residents by working with our development partner, consultants and others including Toronto Employment and Social Services.

We thank you for your ongoing commitment to Toronto Community Housing’s revitalization efforts.

Yours truly,

Len Koroneos
Chief Executive Officer (Interim)
Toronto Community Housing Corporation

CC: Chris Brillinger, Social Development, Finance and Administration
Lydia Fitchko, Social Policy, Analysis and Research, SDFA
Denise And‘ea Campbell, Community Resources, SDFA
Joe Borowiec, Strategic and Corporate Policy
Phil Brown, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
Phillip Abrahams, Social Housing Unit, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration