

Marilyn Toft - Comments-Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020

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From: "Roger McIntosh" <rmcintoshontrack@bellnet.ca>
To: <cdrc@toronto.ca>
Date: 03/18/2014 12:56 PM
Subject: Comments-Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020
CC: "'Heron', 'Marie'" <[REDACTED]>

2014 MAR 21 PM 3 22

Dear Miss Martins/City Councillors,

My name is Marie Heron and I am the Executive Director of On Track Career and Employment Services, (we are located in the Malvern community in Scarborough-McLevin and Neilson Road), and yesterday I was registered to speak at the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020, and due to circumstances I was unable to attend but I sent my colleague Roger McIntosh, who was able to briefly speak to the Coordinator of the event and was authorized to send any comments to your attention, and then to be submitted further to the City councillors for consideration.

Please see below the comments; I will list them in point for to be succinct

The Malvern Neighbourhood Action Partnership (NAP) has taken a proactive stance to ensuring that the current level of support from the City will continue regardless of the NIA designation status. NAPs are used as mechanism to support the neighbourhoods that were previously identified as Priority Neighbourhoods. These NAPs are supported by City staff.

- Firstly, Malvern was one point below the threshold of being identified as a Neighbourhood Improvement Area
- We are concerned that no new investment will come to Malvern, because new investment will primarily be considered only in new NIA designated areas
- Staff has stated that no resources will be removed from Malvern. They continue to mention programs such as the After School Recreation program (ARC) will continue to be delivered however, this program is not accessible to residence because of the cost. Only 2 participants registered for the last session. The Neighbourhood Action Partnership process has been instrumental in developing collaborative responses that respond to the needs of local residents.
- Staff has also stated that the Community Development staff will be removed from the transitioning NIAs. In order for this neighbourhood to continue building the following supports is required from the City on an ongoing basis.
 - Clear line of communication between the existing NAP and Social Develop Finance and Administration to ensure City staff commitments continues, information on new investments, emerging policy change or development opportunities
 - Each city division will continue to support the work that has started, such as the Grade 8 Transition Prog and continue to address emerging issues such as providing support to youth returning to Malvern after exiting the criminal justice system as well as overcrowding in co-op units. There also needs to be an accountability framework for City's ongoing contribution to the NAP.

- Support each city division to create a budget line to support emerging issues.
- Work with the local councillor to connect potential Section 37 contribution to the work of the NAP.
- SDFA needs to negotiate with other institutions a new role in supporting the Malvern NAP process-ie UWT, Colleges and universities, funders and foundations
- Resources to support more effective Resident engagement plan-including a succession plan.

We thank you for taking these points in consideration, and hope you consider them seriously as the Malvern community does. Our hope that Malvern is can still be considered a place of a community worthy of city investment.

Regards,
Marie Heron
Roger McIntosh



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