

**Bloor Street East Neighbourhood Association (BENA)**  
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August 19, 2014

City of Toronto Executive Committee  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, Ontario N5H 2N2  
Attention: Jennifer Forkes, Secretariat Contact

Delivered by email: exc@toronto.ca

Dear Members of the Executive Committee:

Re: **Agenda Item 2014.EX44.27 Adjustment to the 2014-2023 Parks, Forestry & Recreation Capital Budget and Plan to fund the Acquisition of a portion of the parkland at 5 to 25 Wellesley Street West and 14 to 26 Breadalbane Street.**

The Bloor Street East Neighbourhood Association (BENA) is in support of Recommendations contained in the Staff Report regarding the above noted item.

City Council previously authorized a portion of the parkland reserve funds to negotiate the acquisition of the above noted lands in 2012. An agreement has been reached and is before you for ratification and recommendation to City Council. It was approved by the Toronto and East York Community Council last Tuesday. Your approval completes the next step in a process of what was contemplated by Council in 2012.

Downtown Toronto has seen unprecedented intensification over the last several years with a significant portion along Bay Street and within walking distance of the project. Most of these developments have provided cash in lieu for the Parkland Dedication Component with 50% of that cash contribution going to a General Parkland Acquisition Fund held by the City of Toronto (City of Toronto Guidelines). With the heavy intensification of population in the area, it is now seriously Parkland deficient to the extent it is **Red** zoned by the City. In fact the area closest to the project is not only red zoned but has close to zero Parkland for the increased population who live and work in the area.

While our organization is outside of the project area we are in full support of our neighboring association, the Bay Coverhill Community Association, in this acquisition for the use of all residents, workers and visitors.

We thank Councillor Wong-Tam; the Developer, Lanterra Developments and the City Staff in coming together to make this possible.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Executive of BENA;

Linda Brett, President, BENA

cc. Councillor Wong-Tam, Ward 27  
BENA Executive  
Bay Cloverhill Community Association

