

December 7, 2015

Re: Section 37 Fund Allocation

On behalf of the Garment District Neighbourhood Association (GDNA), I am writing to express our support and appreciation for allocation of funds from Section 37 to the proposed YMCA on Richmond Street backing onto St. Andrew's Playground.

City Councillors are aware Section 37 is "primarily a planning tool to address community benefits mostly in proximity to the development." (From Gladki report: <http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2014/pg/bgrd/backgroundfile-66994.pdf>)

The GDNA represents residents living in the area immediately adjacent to the Entertainment District, bound by Spadina to the east, Bathurst to the west, and from Queen to King Streets. Ours is one of the fastest growing neighbourhoods in North America. The population statistics are staggering: from under 1,000 residents in 1996 to an estimated 30,000 today with another 10,000 expected once current and approved developments are constructed. No other riding in the GTA has faced such rapid and dramatic growth. Those who live here can readily attest to the impact.

It is with these changes in mind that the GDNA was formed with the mission to build and protect an attractive, inclusive, safe and sustainable community. Our goal is to work with the City and developers to make that happen. (<http://www.gdnatoronto.org/about.html>)

The recent announcement that BILD has found a committed partner with the YMCA to provide this historic part of the City with much-needed community space for physical exercise, meeting rooms, and other facilities was warmly endorsed and welcomed by the GDNA on behalf of all residents, and by the estimated 35,000 employees who work in the catchment area. We can't think of a better benefit to the community for health, safety, and general well-being.

The streets and sidewalks in this part of the City are in drastic need of repair and we are glad the BIA of the Entertainment District has brought these concerns to Council's attention. We also share their desire for enhanced streetscape. We thank the ED's BIA for taking such pains to ensure their establishments are groomed and putting forth their best look to the benefit of all. Good neighbours appreciate the work of those around them and we hope in time they recognize our efforts across the tracks to do the same. However, until the desired level of density is reached and development is over, putting effort and emphasis on the **people** who live here is the right thing to do.

Catherine Mitchell  
GDNA Representative

