



*City Councillor – Ward 17 •*

***Davenport***

October 14, 2015

Chair & Members  
Community Development and Recreation Committee  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

**RE: OAKWOOD VAUGHAN STRATEGY – AGENDA ITEM CD7.7 – OCTOBER 15, 2015**

I am writing to lend my strong support towards the Executive Director of Social Development, Finance, and Administration recommendations to endorse the **“Oakwood Vaughan Strategy”** that will be before your respective committee on October 15, 2015.

The Oakwood Vaughan Strategy aims to revitalize the local community by improving the social and economic opportunity and overall neighbourhood well-being, which will positively contribute towards the City’s Poverty Reduction Strategy objectives. This strategy is based on four key areas: Community Safety; Economic Development; Community Engagement, and Planning & Development. Over the years, I’ve been working in partnership with Councillor Colle to help revitalize, enhance, and gentrify the Oakwood Village BIA. Building the capacity of the Oakwood Village BIA is the cornerstone of the economic plan in the Oakwood Vaughan Strategy.

Local residents of the Oakwood Vaughan neighbourhood have continued to show their support for the Cornerstone Place Shelter, by volunteering to offer art programs with an emphasis on community building, pride, and inclusion. In addition, I’m pleased to report that there have been no complaints reported at the monthly 13 Division Police Community Partnership meeting, since the shelter opened its doors back in March of this year.

I applaud this initiative for engaging multiple community stakeholders by establishing the Oakwood Vaughan Community Working Group (OVCWG), including City staff, in ongoing dialogues (through a series of community meetings, special events, and online communication) to inform and establish a viable framework to help enhance the Oakwood Vaughan neighbourhood.

Our City is fortunate to have this committed group of stakeholders, and I look forward to lending my support on any future actions deemed necessary to ensure these initiatives come to fruition. Thank you kindly for your assistance and I hope that every effort will be made to support this initiative.

Sincerely,

Cesar Palacio, Toronto City Councillor  
Ward 17-Davenport