

# EX8.15.6



September 17, 2015.

To: Mayor and Members of the Executive Committee

Re: Item 8.15 – 505 Richmond Street

I support the proposal that has been brought forward.

The development/revitalization of this site has been a long time in the making.

It is important to recognise the role of the community, city staff, Build Toronto and that of the former and current elected officials in bringing about these changes.

The initial revitalization of this area focussed on St. Andrew's playground and was facilitated by former Councillor Chow.

From there and upon his election in 2006, former Councillor Vaughan held discussions with the local community who identified the site as having potential in a rapidly changing neighbourhood and introduced Build Toronto to the site. The buildings had previously been used as a municipal yard for public works services, as well as offices for City payroll and other staff.

The feedback from the community led to discussions with Build Toronto and more with the community. We understand that took these ideas and hopes and worked towards fulfilling these dreams through partnership arrangements.

A portion of the site was leased to Eva's Phoenix which relocated their youth housing and employment training facility to the site as the program was displaced from their previous location at 11 Ordnance in Ward 19. During my tenure at the end of the last Council, additional support was provided to assist Eva's Phoenix.

Other additional actions that were taken included:

- Seeking heritage designation of the site to ensure that the Art Deco structure would be protected and adaptively re-used as any part of the redevelopment;
- Earmarking S37 funds for the project;
- Assigning a height cap as a condition for any redevelopment;
- Holding a community meeting to seek feedback on preliminary ideas from the YMCA regarding the facilities on site.

I wish to extend my congratulations and appreciation to everyone who has been involved in this project. This rapidly growing neighbourhood will benefit tremendously from YMCA's involvement on the site.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ceta Ramkhalawansingh', written in a cursive style.

Ceta Ramkhalawansingh  
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