

January 28, 2016

Members of the Executive Committee

Re: Final Report of the Task Force on Toronto Community Housing Corporation Recommendation:

That the Final Report from the Mayor's Task Force on Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) titled "Transformative Change for TCHC" be referred to the City Manager for an initial assessment of the Task Force's recommendations and underlying assumptions / principles, with direction to report to Executive Committee in the Spring of 2016 recommending an overall approach and guiding principles for how best to move forward with the transformation of TCHC; followed by a second report in the Fall of 2016 outlining a detailed long term implementation plan for the transformation.

Comments:

In January of 2015, I announced the creation of an independent Task Force, led by Senator Eggleton. This Task Force was mandated to review the current operations of Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) and to make recommendations critical to delivering high quality housing to residents, improving the sustainability of TCHC, and providing value to residents across the City.

I am pleased to now share the Final Report of the Task Force with Executive Committee.

The Task Force has done a laudable job of reviewing the current context and operations of TCHC. In preparing this final report, the Task Force consulted widely with residents and stakeholders and ensured the contents of the Report reflect both the lived experience of residents and the financial realities associated with the provision of Social Housing in Toronto.

The Task Force has provided a compelling vision for the future of TCHC and tied this vision to innovation and change within the broader Social Housing system. Good quality, affordable and sustainable social housing is critical to the long term success of the City of Toronto. Now is the time to set a new course for not only TCHC, but for the entire Social Housing system that serves the residents of Toronto.

There are many questions and details to be considered and much work to be done. The Task Force has done its part, it is now time for City staff and Council to pick up this work and determine how best to move forward. I am determined to see specific proposals for action consistent with this report presented for consideration as quickly as possible. These problems have been decades in the making and people are waiting for us to act.

The first step in this process is the referral of this Final Report to the City Manager with direction to report in the Spring of 2016 with a strategic, high-level analysis of the recommendations, governance, management and financial models / options proposed in the Final Report; any underlying financial assumptions inherent in the Final Report recommendations; and, the policy and legislative changes that may be required to inform the feasibility and sustainability of the Task Force's recommendations. This Initial Report should also recommend an overall approach, guiding principles and priorities for how best to move forward with the transformation of Toronto Community Housing.

Once Council has considered this Initial Report and approved a go-forward strategy and future direction of TCHC, the City Manager will be requested to develop a detailed implementation plan for Council consideration in the Fall of 2016.

This process will allow for the necessary due diligence to ensure we take full advantage of this unique opportunity to improve quality of Social Housing in the City for the benefit of all Torontonians.

During this time, I am confident that we have a committed and dedicated Board of Directors and staff team at TCHC that will continue to uphold their responsibilities to provide clean, safe, well-maintained, affordable homes for residents while we develop this plan with their involvement.

I want to thank the members of the Task Force and support staff for their time and talents through the last year and thank them for their guidance as we move towards a new direction for TCHC and Social Housing in Toronto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Tory", is positioned above the printed name and title.

John Tory
Mayor of Toronto