



**Glenn De Baeremaeker**

*City Councillor - Ward 38, Scarborough Centre*



June 8, 2017

Dear Chair and members of Budget Committee:

I would like to request your support to complete the repairs of a city owned building located at 705 Progress Avenue. This building will soon house the South Asian Autism Awareness Centre that will provide support and programming for some 500 children with autism.

I am, unfortunately, unable to attend Budget Committee due to being required to continue participating in CEO selection interviews for the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

As you may know, Toronto Council has approved:

- Up to \$150,000 to provide internal improvements that would allow for occupancy of the 57 year-old building and for items such as ensuring the building is AODA compliant,
- Directing staff to consult with stakeholders (including the Canadian Tamil Youth Development, the Syrian refugee service organization Turtlehouse, Tropicana Community Services, Vasanthan Tamil Seniors Organization and Toronto Tool Library) to determine the feasibility of establishing a community hub as part of the new City Park to be created in 2018/2019 at 705 Progress Avenue and report back to the Community Development and Recreation Committee
- Unanimously approved a Below Market Rent for the South Asian Autism Awareness Centre at our City-owned industrial building at 705 Progress Avenue

As Facilities and Real Estate staff started making repairs to the 57 year-old building it was found that additional funding would be needed to bring the building into current AODA, fire and building code regulations and the additional interior works, as approved by Toronto Council.

A total of approximately \$1.85 million in net rents have been collected by the City from the industrial units at 705 Progress and have been deposited into Account XR2007. Withdrawing a total of approximately \$500,000 from this reserve would result in a net \$1.3 million contribution to this reserve.

This item is urgent as construction crews are on site doing roof repairs and additional contractors cannot finish internal improvements until additional funding is secured. All repair work needs to be completed before the Autistic Centre moves into the building before December 2017.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at: 416-392-0204.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn De Baeremaeker".

Glenn De Baeremaeker  
City Councillor, Ward 38