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Date: July 3, 2018

To: Chair Augimeri and Members of North York Community Council

Subject: Lawrence Heights Revitalization 2.0

SUMMARY:

The Lawrence Heights Revitalization is Toronto Community Housing's largest Revitalization project. At 100 acres, it is almost twice the size of Regent Park. Underway since 2015, this site's transformation will create a vibrant, mixed-income community, including 1,208 TCHC units and over 4,000 new private market units, along with new parks, retail space, and roads connecting Lawrence Heights to the surrounding community.

This plan for Lawrence Heights reflects years of input from residents, neighbourhood organizations and the City of Toronto. The mixed-use community master plan, which was launched in 2008 and adopted by City Council in 2011, was a forward-looking vision, with the estimated completion date of 2035. However, the world has been changing at a rapid pace, bringing forward new considerations. At the time of the plan's adoption in 2011, innovations such as ridesharing, electric/self-driving vehicles and home-sharing had not yet begun to transform our cities.

The Quayside partnership between Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Labs has highlighted the importance of designing neighbourhoods that are future-proof, and consider both the physical and digital infrastructure required to build and sustain successful communities in the 21st century.

This motion recommends that City Staff review the Lawrence Heights Revitalization Plan as we approach its 10-year anniversary, and report back to City Council on opportunities to address the social and economic challenges facing the community with innovations and technologies to be included in the tender documents for the next phases of the revitalization (expected in late 2018). Areas to be reviewed include but are not limited to:

- Compatibility with ride-sharing and self-driving vehicle demands including drop-off areas and charging stations
- Requiring a digital innovation / Smart City partner as part of the next tender
- Neighbourhood wide access to free or affordable high-speed WiFi service

- Creation of a digital innovation and entrepreneurship hub / co-working space
- Integration of Bike Share stations into the public realm along with safe cycling facilities
- Implementation of district-level energy & infrastructure solutions
- Application of Passive House standards on a demonstration building
- Pursuing an international design competition to raise the profile of the neighbourhood and create an iconic building to represent the new Lawrence Heights
- Implementation of a progressive waste management system with input from Solid Waste Management
- Including micro-retail opportunities in the new development buildings to facilitate local business incubation
- Applying Complete Streets and L.I.D. stormwater management design standards to all new streets in the community

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That North York Community Council:

1. Request the Director, Community Planning, North York District, in consultation with TCHC, to report back on opportunities to use new and innovative technology and 'Smart City' tools to address the social and economic challenges that the revitalization of Lawrence Heights is trying to solve.
2. Request that TCHC consider leveraging the upcoming tender process in an effort to implement 'Smart City' and technology driven solutions into future phases of the revitalization.

Sincerely,

Josh Colle
Councillor
Ward 15, Eglinton-Lawrence