



Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Toronto

Charitable Business Number 89255 6846 RR0001

101 Spruce Street, Toronto, Ontario M5A 2J3

Phone (416) 925-2243

March 5, 2019

Mayor Tory and City Councillors
City Hall, 100 Queen St. W. Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Re: Supportive Youth Spaces

Dear Mayor Tory and City Councillors,

As Canada's largest child- and youth-serving organization, Boys and Girls Clubs provide vital programs and services to over 200,000 young people in 700 communities across Canada. Toronto's 101 local Boys and Girls Clubs' service locations are on the front-lines, tackling youth violence and supporting mental health, academic performance and employment for youth throughout our City. The majority of our Clubs serve low-income, racialized and vulnerable children and youth, with all of our Clubs deeply embedded in their community – supporting community cohesion and growth. Our record of success and the strength of our community relationships is how we've earned the confidence and trust of City officials, families, community members, and law enforcement alike.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Toronto support and engage in the implementation of the City's Youth Equity Strategy and are encouraged by the current discussion of how to better support our City's youth in the after-school period - a critical time where regular participation in programs that promote physical, educational, and emotional development mitigates the risk of unhealthy behaviours including serious crime and violence. We understand that the Economic and Community Development Committee is undertaking a review of the City's youth services and programming. We recognize and support the need for increased access to youth spaces across our City.

However, we urge the city to engage in a thoughtful and measured discussion with the City's existing youth-serving organizations as to how we improve this access. We believe this expansion needs to be coordinated to maximise benefits and that expanding and leveraging existing partnerships will create higher quality and more timely access and outcomes for our City's youth. For instance, we must carefully

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consider the proximity of proposed youth spaces to existing spaces – whether run by the City or a non-profit such as the Boys and Girls Clubs. With high-quality operating standards, trained staff and regional and national-level support, our Clubs have the relationships with young people a history of quality services and can provide greater benefits to youth with the same resources. We operate within and outside of City owned facilities and can leverage philanthropic and Government support to quickly scale additional youth friendly spaces.

We look forward to discussing how together we can further support our City's youth. On behalf of the Toronto Boys and Girls Clubs,

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kerry Bowser in blue ink.

Kerry Bowser, Executive Director, Eastview
Neighbourhood Community Centre
86 Blake St, Toronto, ON M4J 3C9
kerrybowser@eastviewcentre.com

Handwritten signature of Lisa Kostakis in blue ink.

Lisa Kostakis, Executive Director, Albion Boys and
Girls Club
21 Panorama Ct, Etobicoke, ON M9V 4E3
lisa@albionneighbourhoodservices.ca

Handwritten signature of Cynthia du Mont in blue ink.

Cynthia du Mont, Executive Director, West
Scarborough Boys and Girls Club
313 Pharmacy Ave, Toronto, ON, M1L 3E7
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Handwritten signature of Utcha Sawyers in blue ink.

Utcha Sawyers, Executive Director, Boys & Girls
Club of East Scarborough
100 Galloway Rd, Scarborough, ON M1E 1W7
utcha@esbgc.ca

Handwritten signature of Ian Edward in blue ink.

Ian Edward, Executive Director, Toronto Kiwanis
Boys & Girls Club
101 Spruce St, Toronto, ON M5A 3J2
IEdward@believeinkids.ca

Handwritten signature of Sheldon Taylor in blue ink.

Sheldon Taylor, Executive Director, Dovercourt
Boys and Girls Club
180 Westmoreland Ave. Toronto, ON M6H 3A2
sheldon@dovercourtkids.com

Handwritten signature of Chris Foster in blue ink.

Chris Foster, Executive Director, St. Alban's Boys &
Girls Club, 1278 St. Clair W, Toronto ON M6E 1B9
chris@stalbansclub.ca

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