

Regent Park Social Development Plan Stakeholders' Table

October 25th, 2019

Re: Agenda Item EC8.5, Resourcing the Regent Park Social Development Plan

Dear Members of Council,

We are excited to see the renewed energy and commitment to sustain the vision of a vibrant, socially cohesive neighbourhood of Regent Park. We are writing on behalf of the Regent Park Stakeholders Table, which has recently been reinvigorated as a result of the refreshed Regent Park Social Development Plan. As stated in the staff report, "the Table consists of residents, agency partners, local networks and City staff". The attached report is the culmination of many months of hard work in the community, coordinated by the Table, with the support of city staff. In it you will find key ideas and actions from diverse community members and groups.

This report is particularly significant for local stakeholders because it addresses key gaps in the original SDP approved by city council in 2007. While the original SDP identified 75 recommendations, no funding, no action plan, and no effective evaluation and monitoring mechanism was put in place to ensure the plan's successful implementation. The growing energy around the SDP and the Stakeholders Table reflects recent investments made by the city to coordinate community efforts. This role has been sorely missed in the first ten years of the Regent Park revitalization. In the refreshed SDP and the attached report, the community, through the Table, has developed and/or is developing both an action plan and evaluation tools to ensure the most effective use of community resources and public funds.

In addition, the City and TCHC are in the final steps of identifying a development partner to complete Phases 4 and 5 of the Regent Park revitalization. It is vitally important that residents, grassroots groups and local agencies are enabled and resourced to support the imminent and exciting changes we are poised to implement. The SDP exists to mitigate the risks and jeopardy that seniors, adults as well as children and youth face in the process of being relocated from their homes and community to make way for better housing, better amenities and a healthier, socially integrated future.

With approval of this report, and ultimately with funding approved for its actions, residents, grassroots organizations and agencies will be able to implement their vision of a strong, safe and vibrant Regent Park, with the city as a strong and active partner. We know that many other neighbourhoods facing similar challenges and disruptions due to revitalization look to Regent Park as a forerunner and model. We believe that the initiative underway with the refreshed SDP, if adequately funded, will point the way to best practices for social development in a revitalization. We strongly endorse the attached staff report, 'Resourcing the Regent Park SDP'.

Yours sincerely,

Paulos Gebreyesus
Co-chair Regent Park Stakeholders Table,
representing Regent Park Executive Directors Network
Executive Director, Regent Park Community Health Centre

Lloyd Pike
Co-chair Regent Park Stakeholders Table,
representing Toronto Community Housing residents
Co-chair Regent Park Neighbourhood Association