Chair's Report
Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee

September 26, 2019; 9:30am
Committee Room 1

Chair's Report

- **Managing Emergencies in Apartment Buildings**
  - **At the July 16-19, 2019 meeting, City Council supported amending the Toronto Municipal Code, to require building owners/operators to develop and maintain a vital-service-disruption plan to better serve their residents during prolonged disruption of a building's vital services. This step was taken in response to a report assessing the City's emergency response to an incident at 260 Wellesley St. East, and to address emergency management interventions for high-rise buildings in general. Vital service disruptions have a disproportionate impact on persons living with disabilities.**

- **Licensing of Vehicles for Hire**
  - **At the July 16-19, 2019 meeting, City Council adopted amendments to the City's Vehicles-for-Hire bylaw to improve the safety and accessibility of taxicabs and limousines, and vehicles operated by private transportation companies such as Uber and Lyft.**
  - **In addition to specifying a series of safety measures, the City is introducing an accessibility funding program to help offset the higher cost of providing wheelchair accessible service. The program will be funded through a regulatory charge on members of the industry who do not provide wheelchair accessible service.**

- **Provincial Health Cuts**
  - **On August 29, 2019, I attended a meeting organized by the Ontario Health Coalition, to address the provincial government's $22 billion cut to health care services. I will be working with this group to help strategize an Ontario-wide campaign to oppose cuts affecting Public Health, ambulance service, long-term care, and numerous vital programs that provide health services to persons with disabilities.**

- **Priority Retail Streets Zoning By-Law Amendments**
  - **On September 9, 2019, I met with City Planning staff regarding an upcoming report, to amend the Priority Retail Streets Zoning By-Law. This is an existing by-law that is being updated, based on a City Council decision from May 2018, as part of amendments to the Downtown Plan.**
  - **City staff will bring their report before TAAC, at my request, as the zoning bylaw amendment enforces issues related to the accessibility of retail entrances, as well as the visibility of store windows.**

- **Sumach by Chartwell Grand Opening**
    - **On September 9, 2019, I attended the Grand Opening of the Sumach by Chartwell, a new building dedicated to senior living, in Regent Park. I brought greetings from TAAC, and discussed the needs for increased senior programming within the Regent Park neighbourhood. My office is committed to working with the residents, to advance these programming goals.**

Flag Raisings and Proclamations

- **Canadian Paralympic Committee. August 23 – Sept. 1**
    - **The City of Toronto raised the flag of the Canadian Paralympic Committee, on August 23rd, to mark the VI Parapan American Games in Peru.**

- **Dystonia Awareness Month. September, 2019**
    - **The City of Toronto proclaimed September to be Dystonia Awareness Month. Dystonia is a neurological movement disorder affecting approximately 50,000 Canadians.**

- **World Duchenne Awareness Day. September 7, 2019.**
    - **The City of Toronto proclaimed September 7th as World Duchenne Awareness Day. Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is a progressive genetic disorder that gradually weakens the body's muscles and almost always affects boys, with symptoms beginning in early childhood.**

- **Rehabilitation Day. September 17, 2019**
    - **The City of Toronto proclaimed September 17, Rehabilitation Day. Various kinds of rehabilitation services are offered in Toronto, to those recovering from injuries, those going through life-altering events, or as a result of age-related conditions. These important services enable people to learn how to live with their new circumstances and thrive in their everyday lives.**