

Ward 13, Toronto Centre  
City Hall, 100 Queen Street West  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Suite A5  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Tel: 416-392-7903  
Fax: 416-696-4300  
Councillor\_wongtam@toronto.ca

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Economic and Community Development Committee  
City Hall, Committee Room 1  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Council Members,

### **RE: Amendments to EC6.16 - Downtown East 2023 Five Year Action Plan**

Today the Economic and Community Development Committee will be considering a pivotal plan that sets out a historic strategy to better and formally coordinate essential health and social services and respond to chronic and long term community needs, including those of the most vulnerable in the Downtown East.

In collaboration with the community, and with the assistance and input of staff across divisions over the last week, I have worked on a number of amendments that I am asking the Committee to make to this plan. These amendments close important gaps and will help the plan deliver the reports and information that Toronto needs to effectively address the crises and challenges before us.

These amendments are as follows:

- 1) City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to include the following enhancements and changes to the 5-Year Action Plan for the Downtown East:
  - a) Expand Action 1.0 to include the establishment of a morning and afternoon cleaning schedule for the public realm on the Dundas Street and Victoria Street frontages of the Works at [277 Victoria Street](#) no later than the start of Q3, 2019, including a plan to address community members' discarded belongings that may have been forgotten or misplaced.
  - b) In addition to the continuation of outreach services in Action 3.0, review service gaps and identify resource requirements, to be submitted through the 2020 Budget Process, in order to ensure regular outreach is taking place at Ryerson University and in priority hotspots in the Garden District and Moss Park neighbourhoods.

- c) Work with the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration and other applicable Divisions to assess the scale and type of operations taking place at City-funded community agencies as part of Action 2.4, the Sherbourne Corridor Coordinated Plan. Report back in Q4, 2019 with recommendations on programming, funding, collaboration and enforcement actions necessary to maintain a clear and safe pedestrian thoroughfare on both sides of Sherbourne Street and Dundas Street at all times of day.
- d) Request that Municipal Licensing and Standards investigate all vacant buildings in the Downtown East area that they are made aware of to confirm compliance with the applicable municipal bylaws and to share the property addresses with the Housing Secretariat and CreateTO to consider affordable housing options.
- e) Publish key health indicators bi-annually for the Downtown East catchment area, including City-wide availability of addiction treatment services and rehabilitation spots for those seeking assistance, supportive housing waitlist times, and DTE specific rates of overdoses, the number of individuals sleeping on streets or in shelters who have been successfully housed, sharps collection data, and other relevant statistics.
- f) Consult with residents in the Moss Park neighbourhood on the need for additional Toronto Police Service Community Officer positions.
- g) Expand Action 3.3, Mental Health Capacity Building, working with Toronto Public Health, to:
  - i) Include an exploration of options to convene a mental health and addictions round table with the federal and provincial government, including participation from community partners, that would meet quarterly and provide a focused opportunity to discuss successes and service gaps in communities like the Downtown East which can be addressed through deeper collaboration and program changes.
  - ii) Based on the round table discussions, develop a report detailing the policy changes required for those experiencing mental health or addiction crises to obtain robust supports and housing solutions appropriate to their long-term wellbeing.
- h) Review the existing literature to determine the possible health impacts of surviving an overdose including a review of the health and addiction services available to survivors. This review will include data on overdose reversals estimated through the use of existing paramedic naloxone administration data, data from the existing supervised consumption services on overdose reversals and TPH naloxone distribution data.
- i) Ensure ongoing consultation with neighbours and resident groups in the Dundas-Sherbourne corridor to identify key health and safety concerns for interdivisional and coordinated responses

- j) As per Action 3.1, Monitoring Toronto Respite Site Standards, continue monthly inspection of respite sites to ensure that they are meeting City standards and providing for the health and safety needs of service users.
  - k) Include resident and business associations' feedback as part of the measures of success for the Action Plan.
- 2) City Council request the Toronto Police Services Board to review the current response to safety and noise concerns in the Sherbourne Corridor and Moss Park areas and identify resource requirements to respond.

Sincerely,

Kristyn Wong-Tam  
Councillor, Ward 13  
Toronto Centre