



(SLNA) 230 The Esplanade Toronto ON M5E 1T4 slna@slna.ca www.slna.ca

June 5, 2019

Executive Committee

c/o Julie Amoroso
10th Floor, West Tower
City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Re: EX6.1 Quayside - Update

Dear Mayor Tory and Members:

The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association (SLNA), founded in 1982, represents approximately 35,000 residents in the area bounded by Yonge Street, Parliament Street, Queen Street East and the railway tracks. We regularly work with City staff, residents, developers and property owners to ensure that proposed developments represent good planning and enhance our neighbourhood. We view our neighbourhood association as active champions.

We have been working with the City since our incorporation in 1982 and Waterfront Toronto for many years and are always grateful for the support we have had from the City with various projects including the St. Lawrence Market North Building and getting approval and shovels in the ground this summer.

Our neighbourhood is adjacent to Quayside and we have been engaged since it was first introduced to the community in the spring of 2017. We were excited when Waterfront Toronto advised us that this block in the central waterfront was going to be treated differently than in previous precinct plans.

We have always seen Waterfront Toronto as a leader with respect to City building and being innovative. This project continues to be that and more as we add another layer, that being technology and urbanism into the land development mix and addressing the questions: housing affordability and moving toward a climate positive environment.

From the beginning our mantra has been this is an opportunity until it is not and now we look forward to getting the Master Innovation and Development Plan (MIDP) to review

and attend the upcoming community consultations with Waterfront Toronto and if successful community consultations with the City of Toronto.

When Sidewalk arrived in Toronto immediately they asked us questions about our mixed-use neighbourhood and in particular the housing mix along The Esplanade. We have been engaged in so many community consultations some might even say, are fatigued. Many of our delegates have attended the four roundtable discussions co-hosted by Waterfront Toronto and Sidewalk Toronto, Sidewalk led focus groups, Waterfront Toronto led meetings. In fact, Waterfront Toronto has attended the SLNA monthly meetings three times, we have had media follow our discussions and have had Sidewalk Toronto attend our monthly meetings twice.

It has been mentioned in various forums that there has not been any engagement or consultations and we would argue that this is not true. We have been engaged since March 2017 and have participated where ever possible as this site is our immediate neighbour to the south. While attending these meetings we have met many people from all over the City and outside, all demographics, all ages, and lots of millennials.

The media have followed us yet we only hear of stories where it is all about surveillance, data, privacy etc. The technology that is being presented is nothing new. What is new is the stitching all this together and getting innovation and technology working for us.

Until we read the MIDP and attend the community consultations and provide feedback it is all anecdotal. One story I would like to share is the media stories that have surfaced. There was a group of citizens that got together and talked about their opposition. They garnered lots of media attention. On March 2nd 2019, I attended a Sunday session at the Sidewalk Toronto offices. I literally stood there for three hours chatting with neighbours and was impressed with the number of people that kept going through. I didn't track so this is my story but I was there for several hours and the room was filled with people. There was no mention of this in the media.

We have lots of work to do and we look forward to the MIDP and the next steps Waterfront Toronto and City will take.

Personally, when I hike around the world I am always happy to come home but there is a small part of me that wishes we could be more leaders instead of laggards. I think this is an opportunity to look closely at what is being presented, pick, pull tease out the best practices and leave the parts that do not meet our values or principles. Toronto continues to grow and we are known for being the fastest growing tech hub in North America. This is our chance to lead.

The world is watching and it is important we follow process. Waterfront Toronto has put in place a process for community engagement and a framework for their board to evaluate this plan. The City has a workplan that we also support on how we engage and

evaluate. Over the years we have valued working with Waterfront Toronto and the strength in how they manage process. They have integrity as does the City. We need to keep a steady hand at the wheel and ignore the noise, read the plan, stick with the facts, ask questions, be informed.

We support the work plan City staff have proposed and we are encouraged that there is opportunity here to solve the issue around housing affordability and getting us to a climate positive environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suzanne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Suzanne Kavanagh
Chair, Development Committee

cc. SLNA Board of Directors
Councillor Joe Cressy