

**From:** [Be Kids](#)  
**To:** [councilmeeting](#)  
**Subject:** My comments for 2019.MM5.20 on March 27, 2019 City Council  
**Date:** March 23, 2019 1:34:57 PM

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To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the March 27, 2019 City Council meeting on item 2019.MM5.20, Exploring Partnerships to Create a Vibrant and Sustainable Community Hub at Vaughan Road Academy - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

We are writing today to address the lack of community hubs and programming within the city of Toronto mainly in our area of Oakwood and Vaughan and to show our support in Councillor Matlow's recommendations and seconded by Councillor Layton to use the Vaughan Road Academy location to create a community hub..

It was on December 21<sup>st</sup> during the Honorable Mayor Tory's 2018 Year End Review that he brought forward an issue that has been growing within the city and our community for a number of years and that is the lack of programs and community hubs available to youth.

We are BeKids and we are located in the Wychwood/Humewood/Cedarvale Community on Vaughan Road. We provide after school programs for school aged children and are in the process of introducing a new program for youth aged 12 and up which includes programming as suggested by Mayor Tory in efforts to help reduce the violence facing youth - programs such as After School Homework Clubs, Computer Clubs, Life Skills Workshops and much more.

We are partnered with the community organization called OVNAP - Oakwood Vaughan Neighbourhood Action Partnership, which is a community-led organization with a mandate to work together with residents, businesses, agencies and City representatives such as Councillor Josh Matlow to improve neighborhood well-being. Along with our partnership with OVNAP and others, we are looking to further develop our youth programs to include community programs and workshops to educate our youth, strengthen our community and improve the services and communications within the community.

We applied for a space at Vaughan Road Academy. It's closure as a secondary school has left it unused. Part of it is currently being used as an alternative school, but it was our hopes that with the approval of our application we would be able create a community hub to service the youth in our area and expand to service the youth of Toronto and help to reduce the violence

that is currently plaguing our communities and city.

We are writing you today to not only thank Councillor Matlow and Councillor Layton for addressing this serious need for youth programs and a hub that would service the community using the space available in Vaughan Road Academy, but to show our support for Councillor Matlow's recommendation which is in high demand. Our community and the city is in desperate need of such a facility and the space at Vaughan Road Academy is ideal and accessible and should not be left unused.

Thank you

Noreen Green

BeKids Toronto

[www.torontobekids.com](http://www.torontobekids.com)