



Thursday October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

Dear City Council.

I am writing on behalf of North York Community House, in support of Councillor Colle's recent Motion: Lawrence Heights Emergency Safety and Security Response.

As an agency that is located directly in Lawrence Heights and works closely with residents, I would like to impress upon you the urgent need to support this motion. As Councillor Colle's Motion indicates, residents, grassroots groups, and agencies have been working tirelessly to address issues of gun violence in Lawrence Heights.

We understand deeply the impacts that issues of economic poverty, system racism and anti-Black racism have on Lawrence Heights. As neighbourhood revitalization moves forward it's essential that current residents are supported with short-term and long-term solutions to safety and well being, in order to thrive. Providing the necessary community resources, and pressure on the Provincial Government to return funding for the new Lawrence Heights Community Centre, are key steps in working towards increased safety in.

Community Leaders need to know that City Council understands and supports the urgency of this motion. While we continue to work collectively with fellow community stakeholders, we urge you to take concrete action, as outlined in this motion. A commitment to these actions will send the message to residents of Lawrence Heights that their well being and safety matters.

Sincerely,

Shelley Zuckerman  
Executive Director