



YORK CENTRE SENIORS STEERING COMMITTEE

INNOVATIVE YC SSC *EVERYONE'S* Seniors Health Village (SHV™) WILLIAM BAKER

John Elvidge - City Clerk
Toronto City Hall
13th fl. W., 100 Queen St. W.
Toronto ON M5H 2N2
clerk@toronto.ca;

01/31/2021

RE: YC SSC-The OPA Amendment No. 231 – Appeal 134 by Downsview Park and Canada Lands Company (for City Council consideration on February 2, 2021)

Dear Mr. Elvidge,

As the President Founder of the York Centre Seniors Steering Committee (YC SSC) and, Ward 6 York Centre resident activist for over 15 years, I am writing this letter to express YC SSC strong support for the re-designation of lands as proposed in Amendment No. 231 in the Downsview Official Plan. It is my belief that this land-use conversion will help to trigger the renewal and revitalization of the Downsview area, generating a host of benefits for the entire community.

The approach outlined by Northcrest Developments and Canada Lands Company is both responsible and encouraging. It includes new light employment with new jobs, added housing supply, including new affordable housing stock (20%). We trust it will be designed and built to accommodate needs of older adults, seniors and people with disabilities, and will include parks and natural spaces.

It also includes new social community infrastructure, in which we would like to see the new Councilor's Working Group, an entity proposed by YC SSC and the community. Such assembly would be part of the newly envisioned YC SSC Community Health Design Centre. It would be instrumental in the Downsview Lands New Deal Settlement, with new social innovation contract agreement between YC SSC, City of Toronto, Northcrest Developments and Canada Lands Company.

We know that this vision will not be realized overnight. But the vote on conversion is the first step, to be followed by other necessary steps in the immediate future. I am also encouraged by the strategy of strong community involvement. The YC SSC has been consulted thoroughly and we are heartened by the depth of engagement with other local organizations and groups. More is needed and more support will be needed, but this clear commitment to local involvement and outreach is a great signal.

Our focus is on the well-being of older adults and seniors here in York Centre and the approach put forward by Downsview's owners will further all these important objectives. As such, I hope that City Council will vote in support of this proposal at the upcoming meeting in February 2nd, 2021.

(YC SSC) York Centre Seniors Steering Committee; +1 (416) 770-7680; Elizabeth.Jassem@rogers.com;
<https://ca.linkedin.com/in/elizabethjassem>



YORK CENTRE SENIORS STEERING COMMITTEE

INNOVATIVE YC SSC *EVERYONE*'s Seniors Health Village (SHV™) WILLIAM BAKER

We look forward to working with Northcrest Developments and Canada Lands Company, City of Toronto (City Departments, City Planners and City Programs), such as Better Buildings Partnership at The City and with many others, to promote lasting benefits for the people of Downsview Lands Area.

Thank you in advance for your favourable consideration.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Jassem, Founder, Chair of the Board | CCEO

(YC SSC) York Centre Seniors Steering Committee

Cell: +1 (416) 770-7680

cc. Councillor James Pasternak, Ward 6 York Centre

Chris Eby, Executive Vice-President, Northcrest Developments

Ian Hanecak, Manager, Community & Stakeholder Relations, Northcrest Developments

Giuseppina (Josie) Casciato, Founder, Vice Chair of the Board, (YC SSC) York Centre Seniors Steering Committee

(YC SSC) York Centre Seniors Steering Committee; +1 (416) 770-7680; Elizabeth.Jassem@rogers.com;
<https://ca.linkedin.com/in/elizabethjassem>