

Councillor Jaye Robinson



Ward 15, Don Valley West

Chair, Toronto Transit Commission
City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
2nd Floor, Suite A12
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Tel: 416-395-6408
Fax: 416-395-6439
councillor_robinson@toronto.ca
www.jayerobinson.ca
@jayerobinson

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Economic and Community Development Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H2N2

RE: EC25.7 – Jenner Jean-Marie Community Centre Needs Assessment (Programs and Facilities)

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

In my short time representing the Thorncliffe Park neighbourhood at City Hall, I have heard from many local residents about the urgent need for additional community amenities to support the growing population. The work detailed in this report is an important step forward and I hope that the Economic and Community Development Committee and City Council will lend their full support to upgrading and expanding this well-used facility, and to future opportunities to secure additional community space.

Thorncliffe Park is a geographically small neighbourhood, but it is home to large and diverse community. According to 2016 census data, there are 21,108 residents living in Thorncliffe Park, but the current population is believed to be much higher. Nearly 30% of the population is under the age of 15 and a vast majority live in apartment buildings with limited access to outdoor and recreational space. Consequently, the Jenner Jean-Marie Community Centre (JJMCC) is an essential community hub.

At 12,000 square feet in size, the JJMCC falls significantly below the City's target size of 45,000-65,000 square feet for new and replacement community centres. While undersized, this facility is extremely well-used and provides several vital services for the community, including a day care centre, a library, and one of the few local meeting spaces available to Thorncliffe Park residents. Demand has already outpaced the capacity of the facility as it stands and is expected to continue growing.

To address both the future and current needs of the Thorncliffe Park neighbourhood, it is critical that the City prioritizes expanding and upgrading the JJMCC while continuing to pursue additional community space and facilities in the neighbourhood.

Sincerely,

Jaye Robinson

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