

Friday, October 15, 2021

Chair and Members,
General Government and Licensing Committee
Attn: Mathew Green, Committee Secretary
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

Dear Chair Ainslie and Members of Committee:

**Request to approve 5N2 Food For All, Council of Agencies Serving South Asians,
and South Asian Autism Awareness Centre for below market rents
at 705 Progress Avenue as part of Item #GL26.7**

On behalf of the charities listed below, please accept this letter as our support for the staff recommendations in Report GL26.7: Community Space Tenancy Lease Agreement at 705 Progress Avenue as well as our request for the General Government and Licensing Committee to support additional motions that will help local charities serve marginalized, racialized, and underserved communities in Scarborough.

Report GL26.7 recommends granting below-market rent at the City/TDSB owned 705 Progress Avenue property to Carefirst Seniors and Community Services Association charity as part of the City's below market rent program. The approval will allow Carefirst Seniors Association to utilize approximately 6,600 sq ft. of space at 705 Progress for its charitable purposes and we are in full support of the approval.

Our charities are asking Committee and Council to adopt the following additional recommendations as part of Item #GL26.7 for the City/TDSB owned property at 705 Progress Avenue:

- 1.) Approve an additional 6,000 sq ft of space for the 5N2 Food For All charity, an additional 6,000 sq ft for the Council of Agencies Serving South Asians, and an additional 10,000 sq ft of space for the South Asian Autism Awareness Centre, as part of the City's below-market rent program as soon as space becomes available at the property.
- 2.) Approve a grant allocation of \$450,000 to 5N2 Food for All to undertake renovations and create a proper food preparation area and allocate \$400,000 to the City's Park Department to build an accessible playground at 705 Progress, with funding coming unallocated funds from Reserve Account XR2007.
- 3.) Request staff allocate additional grants to charities moving into 705 Progress (as part of the below-market rent program) to help them renovate the facilities, as funds from Reserve Account XR2007 become available, and examine other ways to support charities utilizing 705 Progress, to the satisfaction of Deputy City Manger, Corporate Services.
- 4.) Request staff follow-up on the May 24, 2017, Toronto Council request (CD20.8) to report on the feasibility of establishing a community hub at 705 Progress to the General Government and Licensing Committee in the first quarter of 2022.

- 5.) Request the co-owner of 705 Progress, the Toronto District School Board, to also waive their portion of rental fees applied to the charities at 705 Progress that are part of the City's below-market-rent program.
- 6.) Request the Toronto and District School Board work together with the City of Toronto to create a master development plan for 705 Progress, along with any Official Plan and/or Zoning amendments which may be necessary, that would allow a mixed-use development to take place at the site, including a new school, a permanent community hub for local charities, at least two new condo towers that would include an affordable housing component, and a large park area, and report back to Scarborough Community Council in the second quarter of 2022.

We believe our charities provide essential services to the Scarborough community and to groups that have traditionally been underserved. With your help, we believe we can make Scarborough – and the City of Toronto – an even more wonderful place to live than it is today.

Please feel free to reach out to any one of us if you have any questions regarding our request.

Sincerely,

Geetha Moorthy
Executive Director
South Asian Autism Awareness Centre



Seema David
Executive Director
5N2 Food For All



Samya Hasan
Executive Director
Council of Agencies Serving South Asians



Glenn De Baeremaeker
Volunteer Chair
South Asian Autism Awareness Centre



Neethan Shan
Chief Executive Director
Tamil Canadian Centre for Civic Action

