

UPTOWN YONGE

Sent VIA EMAIL: nycc@toronto.ca

Date: September 7, 2021

To: Councillor Pasternak and Councillors of the North York Community Council

Re: **NY26.5 – Final Report – City-Initialed Official Plan Amendment Application – 20 Castlefield Avenue, 565 Duplex Avenue and 567 Duplex Avenue**

The officially designated Uptown Yonge Business Improvement Area (BIA) spans an area of about 9 blocks along the east and west side of Yonge Street in Toronto, from Roehampton Avenue in the south to Glengrove Avenue in the north. The BIA serves approximately 400 member businesses, including retail stores, restaurants, and professional services. Uptown Yonge is a part of North Toronto, a historic area near the centre of Toronto that is home to about 100,000 residents. Many customers travel from outside our area to shop at the unique speciality shops and restaurants in our BIA.

We have read the above report recommending the Amendment to the Official Plan which proposes to redesignate the existing Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) lot which contains 163 pay parking spaces, from Neighbourhood's designation to Parks and Open Space Areas. We understand that your recommendations will then be forwarded to Toronto City Council for its consideration.

The BIA is very concerned with this loss of parking in our retail area. The parking lot at Castlefield is located in the middle of the Uptown Yonge BIA and services the area to the north and south to Broadway. South of Broadway there are many public parking lots. The BIA relies on this lot to sustain our businesses and it is the only parking lot north of Broadway with the exception of the small lot on the east side of Yonge at Briar Hill which can only accommodate a few vehicles.

As you may know, the retailers in our BIA are having difficulty continuing to keep their business open due to the effects of COVID-19, high rents and loss of parking spots to accommodate CafeTO. We are very concerned with the result of a loss of parking in our retail area and would very much appreciate the opportunity of discussing the above with the Toronto Parking Authority, the Parks Department and Councillor Mike Colle to examine what alternate provisions can be made for parking in the area.

Yours truly,

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