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Planning & Housing Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: PH 27.6 - The Future of Yonge and Eglinton's Canada Square: Supporting Midtown Existing and Future Residents' Quality of Life

Dear Chair & Committee Members,

The Yonge-Eglinton community, designated as a growth area by the provincial government, has been one of the fastest growing neighbourhoods in Ontario over the past decade. This growth has, unfortunately, not been accompanied by amenities necessary to support a high quality of life for local residents. As a result, Yonge-Eglinton has a dearth of park space, affordable childcare, recreation opportunities, school capacity, and other social services.

The redevelopment of the Canada Square site presents an opportunity to address the needs of the community. The Oxford Developments application, however, did not go nearly far enough toward addressing those needs. That's why my Midtown colleagues, Councillors Colle and Robinson, and I established a Midtown Working Group to establish priorities and present a vision for the Yonge-Eglinton area.

The recommendations below, that I submit on behalf of myself and my Midtown colleagues, seek to support the implementation of the Working Group's vision to provide amenities and contribute to a mixed-use community.

Recommendations:

That Planning & Housing Committee requests the:

1. General Manager, Parks, Forestry, and Recreation, to work with the Chief Planner & Executive Director, City Planning, to investigate the possibility of using parkland acquisition funds to acquire additional park space on the Canada Square site.
2. General Manager, Transportation Services, to work with the Chief Planner & Executive Director, City Planning, to review the feasibility of removing the planned

“hockey stick” road from Berwick to Duplex on the Canada Square site.

3. Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration, work with the Chief Planner & Executive Director, City Planning to review social service needs in the Midtown in Focus Secondary Plan area and explore partnerships with social service agencies to address those needs on the Canada Square site.

4. General Manager, Economic Development & Culture, to work with the Chief Planner & Executive Director, City Planning, and Oxford Developments to explore incentives and funding, from the City and senior levels of government, to attract arts-based, post-secondary, and commercial tenants to the Canada Square site.

5. Director, Environment & Energy, and the General Manager, Economic Development & Culture, to work with the Chief Planner & Executive Director, City Planning, to incorporate green and sustainable initiatives into the Canada Square site by exploring incentives and funding, from the City and senior levels of government, for sustainable design, energy efficiency, and attracting green and sustainable businesses and post-secondary programs.

6. General Manager, Children’s Services, to work with the Chief Planner & Executive Director, City Planning, to provide an affordable daycare facility on the Canada Square site.

7. Chief Planner & Executive Director, City Planning, meet with the Midtown Working group in Q1 to provide a status update on recommendations 1-6 above.

Thank you for your attention in this matter,

Councillor Josh Matlow
City Councillor
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