

From: [Oakwood Vaughan Community Organization](#)
To: [Councillor Colle8; councilmeeting](#)
Cc: [Ben DiRaimo; Fred Winequist](#)
Subject: Toronto City Council Meeting 47, July 19, 2022 Agenda Item NY 33.4
Date: July 18, 2022 5:04:50 PM

Dear City Councillors

Oakwood Vaughan Community Organization (OVCO) includes membership in the neighbourhood of Eglinton West, Dufferin/Oakwood/Vaughan Road. We are home to Little Jamaica. With a signed-up list of 250 supporters and members, OVCO is widely recognized as a voice of residents. We are recognized by and collaborate with many local agencies and all three levels of government.

OVCO supports Reena's zoning and site plan application for the Frankfort Family Reena Residence at 155 – 165 Elm Ridge Drive, which is in our community.

We have worked closely with Rena Foundation as they engage with the community in the consultation process, collaborating with OVCO to explore ways to work together with the goal of including persons with intellectual disabilities in our community life. We welcome the presence of Reena residents in our community and we look forward to working with Reena as they prepare for the opening of the residence.

OVCO is founded on the principle that a healthy community includes everyone from all walks of life, focussing on community members who face barriers to participation. OVCO supports community inclusion of persons with developmental disabilities. Shelter and housing is a huge issue in our city. It should be noted that over 18% of the homeless population in Toronto have a developmental disability. We also know that there is a severe and chronic housing shortage for those with developmental disabilities and there is currently a 40 year waiting list for housing with supports in Ontario.

We strongly urge counsel to approve this application and we welcome ongoing engagement with Reena and the people who receive Reena services over the upcoming years.

Bill Worrell (he/him)

Chair

Oakwood Vaughan Community Organization (OVCO)

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