

March 7, 2022

To: Members of Toronto City Council

From: Coralina Lemos
VP, Corktown Residents and Business Association Inc.

Re: March 9th, 2022, MM41.10 “Public Realm Improvements for the King-Sumach Plaza Belt - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton (Ward 13).”

Dear **Members of Toronto City Council**

Reported to be completed by 1964 at a price tag of \$10 million the Richmond Adelaide Interchange, formerly Duke Duchess, was constructed as a means to connect the Don Valley Parkway and the Gardiner Expressway. The highway interchange construction in the Corktown neighbourhood resulted in a number of homes being demolished and even worse, a severed King Street East corridor and the shifting of Sumach Street, between King and Front Streets.

Having lived in the neighbourhood since the 1980s, I've seen the parcels within the King-Sumach Plaza lack proper lighting, scheduled cleanups, paving, and landscaping. It's shameful that this should be allowed to continue for so many years adjacent to a major street corridor such as King Street. This especially at a time when cities throughout the world are transforming lifeless highway underpasses in places that are a focal point of the surrounding community.

I agree with the Members' Motion put forth by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam and hope Toronto City Council Members will also as it will help:

1. Animate what is currently a main street dead space.
2. Improve pedestrian visual and gathering experience.
3. ReConnect the King-Sumach Plaza Belt to the Corktown neighbourhood.

Please support MM41.10.

Respectfully,
Coralina Lemos

VP, Corktown Residents and Business Association Inc.
& King-Sumach Plaza Working Group Lead