

Deputation by Moyeen Choudhury
A resident of ward #20, Scarborough
January, 17th, 2023

Good Morning and happy new year to all.

I am Moyeen Choudhury, a resident, of the Taylor-Massey-Oakridge neighbourhood. Today I have come to this budget session to talk about the problems of the elderly in the Taylor-Massey Oakridge neighbourhood and their solutions. I am speaking as a local resident.

Dear committee, aging is a normal process of human life. Every human being will go through this process. This transformation process should be anxiety-free. But many are apprehensive and afraid to accept this process when their minimum needs are hindered.

Taylor-Massey Oakridge neighbourhood is home to a large number of newcomers, immigrants, and refugee claimants according to the statistics. Many of them are elderly. These multicultural seniors always feel isolated from mainstream residents. Cultural changes, linguistic problems, physical as well as mental illness, financial instability, lack of information etc. ultimately make them frustrated, disappointed, hopeless and desperate. Moreover, Covid-19 is having a long-term effect on the physical and mental health of many of them.

I have witnessed as a community resident that many seniors feel redundant or unwanted in their old age which is simply not true at all. These seniors can also contribute to society if they are provided with the opportunity and support.

It is true that various organizations arrange different programs for seniors in the Taylor-Massey Oakridge neighbourhood. But, the seniors need to travel to different locations to get that assistance which is time-consuming as well as expensive. At the community level we tried to open a seniors club but we failed due to a lack of space. And renting a space is also expensive which seniors cannot afford. There is a lack of senior services in the TCHC and city facilities to address the needs of vulnerable seniors and adults. The most difficult thing is accessing the recreational hall at TCHC.

Therefore, I believe that a one-stop centre or seniors hub can become a gathering place for senior citizens if it is set up in this area. Seniors will connect with everyone from their own

culture there. They will very easily get the information they need. These seniors will be able to get the help of a doctor or nurse as needed. It will also facilitate them to join their age-appropriate sports or other cultural activities. The course of old age will be joyful for them. I am therefore appealing to City Councillors and the Mayor to establish a seniors hub in this Neighbourhood. This space will make the ageing process of the seniors smooth, joyful and safe.

Deputation by Shah Mohiuddin,

A resident of ward #20, Scarborough

January, 17th, 2023

Hello members of the Budget Committee. Happy new year to you all. My name is Shah Mohiuddin, resident of ward #20, Scarborough, living beside the Victoria Park subway station. I would like to speak on public/community safety and an elevator at Victoria Park subway station. It is delightful news that the TTC has also proposed a capital budget of 2023 for the elevator expansion.

Problems: Community safety is a top priority to help keep the community safe and secure . This can help address physical, mental and psychological health conditions. There are two steep, narrow, cracked, uneven and rough stairways at the north outside of the Victoria subway station. This is a subway exit leading to four Teesdale places, three Pharmacy Place buildings and many houses. More than fifteen thousand multicultural communities of all ages, gender, sex, colour, race, language, cultures, seniors, disabled and marginalized communities live there. The stairways are very difficult and dangerous to climb and pass over with strollers, shopping carts, wheelchairs, bicycles and scooters. During the rains and winter snow time, the stairways are completely invisible and covered with snow and ice and become very risky and slippery to walk up and down. On one extreme snowstorm day, a lady with a baby in a stroller could not cross the stairways and was helplessly waiting with a TTC token that is not accepted at the entrance gate due to the system. I helped her with a Presto ticket to enter the subway. Sometimes lights are not available and due to cloudy and foggy conditions, it becomes dark. As a result crime can occur. People have been victims of theft as these anti-social activities are happening.

Solution:

- The victimized of these areas are strongly demanding an elevator address these problems.
- The residents do not want a sophisticated elevator. There is one elevator on the west side leading to the bridge; similarly, another simple elevator on the east side is needed for these large populations for their benefit, safety and wellbeing.
- This important issue has been and is being raised and discussed at community meetings, to TTC officials, the local City councillor and MPP.
- They are given only hopes, promises, and commitments but the pledge, promises and commitments are broken and practically not implemented and executed.

The City councillor, City officials, TTC officials and other levels of government are urged to construct and install an elevator for the safety, reliability and well-being of the entire community.

Thanks for providing me the opportunity to speak.

