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March 19, 2023

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

Attention: Ellen Devlin
iec@toronto.ca

RE: IE2.9 Ravine Slope Stabilization

Dear Chair Councillor McKelvie and Members, Infrastructure and Environment Committee

The Deer Park Residents Group (DPRG) represents residents living in the area between the Beltline to the north, Woodlawn Avenue West and Jackes Avenue to the south, Avenue Road to the west and Mt. Pleasant Cemetery and the Vale of Avoca/Yellow Creek Ravine to the east. The DPRG is a member of the Midtown Ravines Group, a consortium of residents associations working for better ecological balance and improved park use in ravines in Midtown Toronto.

We are writing to support Councillor Saxe's motion requesting that the City Solicitor, in consultation with Finance, Parks Forestry and Recreation, and other City Divisions and the TRCA, report back to the June 2023 meeting of this Committee on options for requiring beneficiaries of City/TRCA investments to either contribute to the costs of such investments or transfer ravine land to the City in lieu of contributing to the costs. The motion before you is a potentially useful step towards getting beneficiaries of City investments to share in their costs. But it is equally necessary that you ensure that City investments actually provide the benefits for which property owners are asked to contribute a share of costs.

We therefore also ask that the requested report address further ravine issues, as set out in the Midtown Ravine Group's letter to your Committee. Many issues contribute to slope erosion, reaching across the mandates of multiple civic departments - slope stabilization, expediting erosion control and parks development in Yellow Creek, using bio-engineering vs mechanical engineering, encouraging private slope stabilization initiatives, and establishing ravine remediation as a City-wide priority.

City Council set up a Working Group of citizens and City staff 6 years ago to expedite the development of a Master Plan for the Vale of Avoca (Yellow Creek) ravine. The ravine is a



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major recreational asset for the fast-developing Yonge Street corridor between Bloor Street and Davisville. Developments in the area are expected to add close to ten thousand new residents within walking distance of the ravine. The ravine is not only a recreational resource, it is also an environmentally threatened natural area.

But progress has been slow. We need the City's Ravine Strategy to be backed up by greater City investments in ravine remediation, incentives for private stewardship, and community-led stewardship of public ravine lands, through such as the ongoing Toronto Nature Parks capital reserve — the result of Section 42 and 37 developer contributions.

Cathie Macdonald
President, Deer Park Residents Group

Cynthia Crysler
Chair, DPRG Ravine Committee

CC Councillor Matlow