



Toronto Community
Benefits Network

TE6.17 - 775-783 Vaughan Road and 680-690 Northcliffe Boulevard - Official Plan and Zoning By-law Amendment, and Rental Housing Demolition Applications

June 22, 2023

The TCBN is currently working with a coalition of groups including the Oakwood Vaughan Community Organization, Keele & Eglinton Residents and Black UrbansimTO who collectively are leading community engagement, organizing and advocacy as it relates to new developments in the Little Jamaica area.

Over the last few months, our groups have been engaged with the development applicants Core Development Group and Shannondale Developments in efforts to collaboratively address some critical community issues and priorities. Through this engagement, we have recently explored the opportunity for us to come to terms on an agreement for continued engagement related to the important priorities raised by the coalition.

While we have yet to come to terms on this agreement, we are hoping to finalize something in advance of City Council.

We would like to recognize the proactive approach taken by the development applicants to meet with community organizations beyond the required community consultation meeting to engage, discuss and explore how important community priorities can shape equitable and inclusive development.

One of the priorities for the development proposal that TCBN is leading and has had discussions with the applicants is focused on developing a Community Benefits Agreement for the project. A community benefits approach would outline and ensure commitments to inclusive local economic development and developing pathways for local community members and businesses to participate in the good jobs and opportunities as part of the planning, construction and development of the project.

Last summer, City Council approved a motion put forward by Councillor Joe Mihevc seeking to explore ways to include voluntary community benefits plans in private developments.

MM47.1 Voluntary Community Benefits Plans - City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, to examine any possible options for projects submitted for approval through development application processes to voluntarily include community benefits plans with proposed thresholds for equity hiring and social procurement to support inclusive economic development, and to



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report back through the Community Benefits Framework report to the Economic and Community Development Committee in the first quarter of 2023.

Two weeks ago, the TCBN hosted the fifth of six roundtables focused on this topic featuring private sector leader, Dream and the City of Toronto's Community Benefits Unit as guest speakers. The session was attended by community benefits practitioners from community, labour, private sector, academia and government signaling a significant interest from city building leaders.

With the rise of private sector development across the City, we encourage City departments including Social Development, Finance and Administration, City Planning and Economic Development to work collaboratively in developing approaches that can enable Community Benefits Agreements as part of private developments where there is community interest.

In conclusion, the TCBN is looking forward to working with the coalition and development applicants, through a negotiated commitment to continued engagement, to ensure important community priorities including Community Benefits Agreements is established as part of the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R Powell".

Rosemarie Powell
Executive Director
Toronto Community Benefits Network