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To: [councilmeeting](#)
Cc: [Clerk](#); [Councillor Ainslie](#); [Councillor Bravo](#); [Councillor Carroll](#); [Councillor Colle8](#); [Councillor Fletcher](#); [Councillor Malik](#); [Councillor Matlow](#); [Councillor McKelvie](#); [Councillor Morley](#); [Councillor Perks](#); [Councillor Myers](#); [Councillor Thompson](#); [Councillor Saxe](#); [Councillor Perruzza](#); [Councillor Pasternak](#); [Councillor Nunziata](#); [Councillor Moise](#); [Councillor Mantas](#); [Councillor Kandavel](#); [Councillor Holyday](#); [Councillor Crisanti](#); [Councillor Cheng](#); [Councillor Burnside](#); [Councillor Bradford](#); [marci.ien@parl.gc.ca](#); [Miguel avila-velarde](#); [Denise Andrea \(SDFA\) Campbell](#); [John \(Social Development\) Smith](#)
Subject: [External Sender] My comments for 2024.EX16.30 on July 24, 2024 City Council
Date: July 18, 2024 1:54:59 AM

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the July 24, 2024 City Council meeting on item 2024.EX16.30, Community Safety and Well-being and Schools

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

Thank you to the members of the Executive Committee for supporting Motion EX16.30 on Community Safety, Well-being, and Schools. As an advocate for youth employment and opportunities, I would like to share the experience of Regent Park, which celebrated a milestone of zero gun-related deaths in 2023.

This achievement was possible due to the direct investments made in the Regent Park community, including the \$500,000 annual investment in the Regent Park Social Development Plan. These funds have supported grassroots organizations and residents in delivering crucial youth-based programming and employment opportunities.

On May 29th, 2023, the Regent Park community was informed of a pause in funding that lasted for 15 months, with restoration set for September 2024. This encouraging news was shared by John Smith, Manager of the Community Development Unit at a meeting hosted by the City of Toronto on Tuesday, July 16th after consideration of Motion EX16.30 on Community Safety, Well-being, and Schools by the Executive Committee.

It is evident that direct investments by the City of Toronto in people are essential to restoring community safety and fostering livable and prosperous communities.

The Regent Park Neighbourhood Association has received federal support to hire 10 summer youth through Canada Summer Jobs 2024. We appreciate the support of our Member of Parliament and the Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Youth of Canada - Marci Ien for the direct investments in our youth through Service Canada.

Regrettably, we could only hire 10 youth out of the 167 applications received in less than two weeks of the public posting. It is imperative that the City of Toronto match the contributions of the federal or provincial governments in creating youth jobs throughout the year, not just during the summer.

On May 17th, 2024, the planning committee of the Regent Park Social Development Plan wrote to Denise Andrea Campbell, the Executive Director of Social Development, Finance & Administration, emphasizing the immediate release of 2024 SDP funds. Specifically, on April 25th, the Regent Park Social Development Plan Planning Committee proposed to the Regent Park Stakeholders Table the immediate release of City Council-approved SDP funds for 2024. During the meeting, attended by 76 stakeholders, the proposal received overwhelming support.

The Regent Park community is well-versed in the solutions that work. It is imperative for the City of Toronto departments to collaborate with residents and the leadership of neighborhood associations to identify necessary investments to keep our communities safe.

I want to thank all the deputants for their thoughtful contributions to this important debate, and specifically Councillor Josh Matlow for moving the motion that was adopted by the executive committee.

Finally, I want to thank Miguel Avila-Velarde, a Regent Park resident, activist, and member of the Regent Park Neighbourhood Association's Board of Directors, for highlighting the resident led initiatives to create more youth employment in the Regent Park community through their neighborhood association, RPNA.

Thank you for considering my comments as this matter is deliberated by Council at its next meeting.

Sincerely,

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