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April 14, 2024

Members of the Economic and Development Committee

City Council and Alejandro Bravo
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St W
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Members of the Economic and Development Committee,

As the Executive Director of the Oaks Revitalization Association, I am writing to express our organization's strong support for the Downsview Area Secondary Plan, proposed by City of Toronto staff, and the supporting Community Development Plan. Having been involved in the community consultation processes from the outset and also having seen firsthand Northcrest's commitment to working with equity-deserving groups, I am proud to give our enthusiastic endorsement.

In our work at the Oaks Revitalization Association, we are committed to fostering equitable employment and mentorship opportunities, particularly among skilled trades. By focusing on career pathways rather than temporary employment, we ensure that our participants can build lasting financial security and stability. The Downsview Area Secondary Plan stands to significantly amplify our impact, particularly benefiting those historically marginalized in our city's Northwest.

I've had the privilege of working closely with Northcrest in their efforts to date, and I can affirm their genuine dedication to viewing this project as an avenue for positive impact. Participating in their inaugural Workforce Development Forum underscored Northcrest's proactive stance in embracing the responsibilities inherent in an endeavor like this. The presence of numerous local organizers and employers at this meeting exemplifies Northcrest's commitment to fostering meaningful and long-term workforce development programs that benefit all members of our community, especially those who have been historically underrepresented in the workforce. Furthermore, as a longstanding member of their Community Resource Group, I've witnessed firsthand how they

earnestly engage with our organization's mission and incorporate our distinctive viewpoint into their planning process.

At the Oaks Revitalization Association, we have seen firsthand the transformative power of equitable workforce opportunities on individuals and communities alike. By providing access to training, mentorship, and job placement services, particularly within the construction sector, we empower people to break free from economic struggles and pave their way to lasting success. Equitable workforce opportunities not only provide individuals with the means to support themselves and their families but also contribute to the overall economic vitality and social cohesion of our neighborhoods.

However, this mission requires dedicated partners who share our vision of creating a more inclusive and equitable society. Prioritizing job creation for residents, including those from marginalized and underrepresented groups, is paramount to ensuring that development benefits everyone equally. By embedding equity and inclusion into the fabric of the Downsview Area Secondary Plan's Community Benefits Plan, we can ensure that the benefits of development are shared equitably among all members of our community.

We eagerly anticipate the implementation of the Voluntary Community Benefits Plan, which will serve as a driving force in promoting economic inclusivity and securing lasting advantages for the people of Toronto whom we proudly serve. By prioritizing equitable workforce opportunities as a core component of the Secondary Plan, we affirm our commitment to fostering inclusive growth and equitable development in our city.

I urge the Economic and Development Committee to recognize the critical importance of approval, as it lays the groundwork for a future marked by shared prosperity and opportunity for all members of our community.

Thank you for considering our perspective and for your dedication to the betterment of our communities.

Best Regards,



Mark Tenaglia