

April 30, 2024

Dear Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee

Re: EC 12.2

Unfortunately, the meeting scheduled for April 30, 2024, of the Economic and Community Development Community falls on the last day of Passover which is a day of religious significance for the Jewish community. Therefore, I will not be at Committee on this date.

I want to thank city staff for their work on the Downsview Community Development Plan and fully support the transformative role it will play in the years and decades in the future in building out the former Bombardier and federal lands.

As the Councillor for the Downsview community, an area I've been fortunate to represent since the amalgamation of wards in 2018, I've always advocated for unlocking the potential of the former Downsview Airport and surrounding lands. We have seen south of the border the negative outcomes when industrial lands are left vacant for years and decades.

The Update Downsview engagement, led by the City staff in partnership with the landowners in the area, ensured that there was broad engagement with the Downsview community to ensure that their interests are top of mind. This has been one of the most intensive and extensive engagement processes I have seen since arriving at City Hall 14 years ago.

The Downsview Community Development Plan ensures that the local and surrounding communities access the benefits of the upcoming developments in and around Downsview. The City's Community Benefits Plan is the right approach to development such that the prosperity is truly inclusive and shared. While there is some fine-tuning to do at Council and I see this as a living document, I urge committee members to support it. That being said, I request support for the following motion:

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, in consultation with Chief Planner, City Planning, and General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to continue to work with all property owners and stakeholders in the Secondary Plan Area to include Community Benefit Plans as part of their District Plan submissions to be approved at the Community Council.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of the Downsview Community Development Plan.

Sincerely,

James Pasternak
Councillor, Ward 6