



GOODERHAM & WORTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

December 9, 2024

**Executive Committee
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
via email to: exc@toronto.ca**

Subject: Support for EX19.2 Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization - Update

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of the Executive Committee:

I am writing you today on behalf of the Gooderham & Worts Neighborhood Association (GWNA) to express strong support to move ahead with Staff recommendations in the report on the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization.

GWNA is a unified voice that serves the interests and enhances the quality of life for residents of the Historic Distillery District. We are located just a few minutes walk up Parliament Street from Quayside or up Cherry Street from Ookwemin Minising.

GWNA has worked closely with Waterfront Toronto through the conception, planning, design and redevelopment of the West Don Lands post industrial site immediately adjacent to our community over more than two decades. That positive firsthand lived experience has built strong trust in Waterfront Toronto's abilities to advance from a precinct plan with schematic design through detailed design and delivery, with high levels of effective public engagement throughout.

Our engagement in Stakeholder Advisory Committees for Quayside and Ookwemin Minising (formerly Villiers Island) has given us confidence in the development of those future communities under the leadership of Waterfront Toronto. As the process of building scaled, complete communities from post industrial lands takes decades of steady-handed stewardship, we had been concerned about the approaching end of Waterfront Toronto's current mandate period with the attendant risk of badly needed developments getting stalled or derailed were there to be a change in approach. We are pleased to see a renewed mandate for Waterfront Toronto until 2035, and hope that will be further extended to 2040.

Waterfront Toronto's track record of delivering communities with significant levels of quality affordable homes, in productive collaboration with private sector developers and non-profit organizations, is more vital to our city than ever. As all levels of government scramble to find new ways to incent housing construction in the face of plummeting housing starts, continuing to fund the proven Waterfront Toronto model makes sense. The up front alignment of all three levels of government, with delegation to Waterfront Toronto's focused team of professionals, removes friction and delays to ensure the required infrastructure is there for new homes to be built.



GOODERHAM & WORTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

We wholeheartedly support the proposed tri-governmental investments in enabling infrastructure for Quayside and Ookwemin Minising.

Our residents have enjoyed the benefit of seeing the new naturalized Don River and surrounding Biidaasige Park coming to life in our back yard. Completing the northwest portion of Biidaasige Park is a practical approach to greatly improving access to these new parks and facilities for many other residents of Toronto via the soon to be built, already funded, Keating Channel bridge.

We are delighted to see the creative proposal to reallocate space on Queens Quay East to priority bus lanes, without reducing private motor vehicle lanes. In addition to providing badly needed improvement to public transit serving the Lower Yonge and East Bayfront areas, we anticipate these lanes helping to restore reliable, consistent operation of the 65 Parliament bus, a key north-south TTC route also serving the Distillery District, Corktown, Regent Park, Cabbagetown and St. James Town.

On a related note, we urge the City to continue its efforts to secure funding needed to build the Waterfront East LRT to provide higher capacity transit for the dense new Quayside and Ookwemin Minising neighbourhoods that will advance the City's laudable TransformTO climate goals. Car-centric is simply not an option for an island with limited bridge access.

Waterfront Toronto has served our city well for more than two decades in revitalizing Toronto's waterfront while delivering new communities with thousands of homes and landmark public spaces. We urge you to move forward with the tri-governmental investment in the prioritized next phase projects.

Sincerely,

Neil Betteridge
President
Gooderham & Worts Neighborhood Association
president@gwna.ca

cc:
Deputy Mayor Malik, Tom Davidson
Councillor Moise, Macy Parakh
Mira Shenker, Waterfront Toronto