



**Federation of
South Toronto
RESIDENTS'
ASSOCIATIONS**

July 10, 2024

Nancy Martins

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
<mailto:phc@toronto.ca>

Dear Ms Martins,

We are pleased that the planning department reviewed the state of community involvement and has prepared the report. We support the general thrust of the recommendations.

We understand that community involvement in planning has been made much more difficult by the recent legislative actions of the province. However, we would like to move forward.

We would like to have more structure with regard to the route forward. We need to have the Community Planning District Managers (and community groups). Community groups need to have a better understanding of the key features of planning to adjust to the new realities and the future goals for the city. Accordingly, we recommend that District Managers and staff be given more leeway to liaise with local groups on an informal basis. We understand that the area planners are busy and that organizing community involvement is an additional burden.

To make this work effectively, we urge the planning department to create a group dedicated to community outreach. That will lift some of the workload off the area planner. Such a group could be created through internal secondment or contract work.

Lastly, we understand that recent provincial legislation does not mandate pre-application consultation but does allow voluntary consultation. We urge the city to consider voluntary guidelines around community consultation that could be considered on a planner's checklist. As community groups, we are happy to consult with developers and will consider developing our own development checklist.



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Recommendations

We support the report and thank the planners for their work recognizing the difficult situation that the city has now been placed in by the province.

We have three recommendations that might be pilot-tested in some Toronto communities with an interim report by year-end.

1. That Community Planning District Managers and staff are authorized to meet informally with the community at least annually
2. That the planning department to create a dedicated group that will coordinate formal community engagement
3. We request that the city through the planning department develop a set of good planning practices related to community involvement.

Sincerely yours,

Rick Green
Chair

cc. Councillor Gord Perks
cc. Geoff Kettell/FoNTRA
cc. Cathie Macdonald/FoNTRA