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Response to TPA's ESG Report

and our experience in Ward 9

We would like to thank the Toronto Parking Authority and City Council for continuing to recognize the importance of supporting different modes of transportation in this city. As an important revenue generator for the City, we are appreciative of the TPAs efforts and commitment to responsible business practises and social responsibility.

This is what ongoing social responsibility, accessible design and “stakeholder engagement” has looked like to our community:

You may remember that our neighbourhood is one of few in the city with a distinction of a Neighbourhood Improvement Area, designated as facing systemic underrepresentation and ours with a large population of black community, undocumented residents and low-income households. Despite this, we are still committed to having our voices heard and calling once again on the TPA and Council to truly understand what this means to us and its impact.

As you may remember, this time one year ago, our neighbourhood was home to a large community parking amenity. It lay underneath the provincial hydro corridor and had served our residents, small business owners and visitors alike for 50 years. It provided off-street parking for accessible spaces, Car-Share rentals, access to the Black and Caribbean churchgoers to their place of worship next door and provided access to local businesses loading bays for their large truck shipments, as well as parking for their large fleet vehicles and was one of the few in the city that sold monthly parking passes. It also guaranteed eyes on the street in an area rife with liquor establishments and an increase in violence and drug use.

In October 2023 the Toronto Parking Authority and the powers that be notified a handful number of parking pass holders that our amenity of 50 years was to be demolished. Despite ongoing efforts from our community leaders with the TPA, Council, CREM and various other bodies, declined the

Community's proposal to take responsibility for our amenity and run it ourselves. Instead, our equity-deserving community lost against the big hand of the City.

To add insult to injury our small business parking spaces were then expropriated (given to the TPA to charge \$ for) and our residential side streets were fitted with payment machines. Now our working class community has to contend for expensive curb-space with shoppers of the popular grocery store, influx of carshare vehicles, commercial vehicles, parishioners, Community Event visitors and funeral attendees at the local Funeral Home across the street.

In its place is a contaminated fenced-off area with a winding path that leads pedestrians who had previously enjoyed an accessible kilometre length multi-use trail to a death trap laneway where literal crackheads fight during daylight hours and vehicles speed through to avoid the outrageous congestion on St.Clair. To say that this is a blight on our community would be describing it in nice terms.

We are hoping that TPA and the City continue to make good on their "inclusion of equity-deserving communities" and remember that their facilities are an "integral part of life" in this city. We hope that you continue your passion for the communities you support and congratulate you on your financial contributions for the United Way toward communities that face neighbourhood and systemic inequality. We wish that some of that support and consideration would have been entrusted to us.

We also hope that you remember our request from one year ago, that you remember our community in your Budget for Capital investments. We implore you to reinvest in our community and work with us instead of seemingly against us. We would like you to keep in mind the effects that underrepresentation of vulnerable populations have on our livelihoods and strive you to continue to try to do better. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Residents, Visitors, Parishioners, Small Business Owners, Family of St.Clair Gardens Neighbourhood

