



December 2, 2025

Re: EC25.1 - 4050 Chesswood Drive - Designation of a Portion of the Property Used by North York Harvest Food Bank Toronto as a Municipal Capital Facility

Dear Economic and Community Development Committee;

As the Councillor for York Centre, I am writing to express my gratitude for the staff report entitled [4050 Chesswood Drive - Designation of a Portion of the Property Used by North York Harvest Food Bank Toronto as a Municipal Capital Facility](#) which was the result of [MM31.12](#) that I put forward at City Council seconded by Councillor Cheng.

I support the recommendation in the report to designate a portion of the property as a municipal capital facility in order to exempt 4048 Chesswood Drive, the future location of North York Harvest Food Bank's Community Food Hub, from property taxes. This exemption would mean significant and ongoing cost-savings for North York Harvest Food Bank's operations.

However, I am also writing to request that the City of Toronto supports North York Harvest Food Bank with a loan guarantee. North York Harvest Food Bank has done invaluable work not only in York Centre but across the city as one of the major food security organizations in Toronto. Whether it is providing direct food assistance to more than 30,000 people every month in our city; running additional emergency food programs out of city locations like libraries and community centres in response to the COVID pandemic; delivering food to youth programs in our libraries or food programs in our schools, North York Harvest Food Bank is and has been an important and integral partner with the City of Toronto in responding to the food security emergency that we find ourselves in.

Acting as a loan guarantor for the capital required to bring the Community Food Hub into operation will not only allow North York Harvest Food Bank to access more favourable financing, but it will also support the community infrastructure necessary to respond to the food insecurity emergency in the City of Toronto.

Sincerely,

Councillor James Pasternak
Toronto - Ward 6, York Centre
Chair, North York Community Council