

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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Toronto, ON M5S 1X1



January 27, 2025

TO: City of Toronto Executive Committee
Toronto City Council
Toronto City Hall

**RE: Member Motion MM24-15: Toward Municipal Autonomy and Effective Local Governance
Referred to Committee from City Council meeting December 2024**

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of the Executive Committee:

On Tuesday, **28 January 2025**, Executive Council will be considering a motion brought forward by Councillors Matlow and Myers calling for a citizen's Task Force on ways to strengthen local autonomy and democracy. I write on behalf of the Harbord Village Residents' Association, which comprises the area from Bloor St to College St and from Bathurst St to Spadina Ave.

Please be advised that the HVRA fully supports the motion; we agree that decisions which affect our city should be made locally and not by the provincial government. We urge you to adopt this proposal from Councillors Matlow and Myers.

We are already feeling the effects of provincial overreach combined with lack of revenue options – downloaded welfare that strains our coffers, election interference that guts our council, planning and development uncertainty that practically eliminates local input, and even street infrastructure micro-management that threatens the safety of vulnerable road users, with many of the downtown neighbourhoods such as ours hit hardest.

The status quo is simply not working and we as a city owe it to ourselves to consider all of our options. A well-rounded task force will get the ball rolling to a better future that meets the needs of the city, not the politicians. Your yes vote will indicate willingness to hear what the public has to say on this important issue. Be bold!

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Fleming
Chair, HVRA
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