

Decembre 7, 2025

**To: Chair and Members of the Executive Committee  
City of Toronto  
[exc@toronto.ca](mailto:exc@toronto.ca)**

**Dear Chair and Members of the Executive Committee**

I am writing to express my strong support for **Item 2025.EX28.19 - re the City Budget Allocation for the Social Development Plan Implementation**

This item has the **unanimous recommendation** of the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee (CABRAC), calling on City Council to allocate **\$250,000–\$500,000 annually for each per priority neighbourhood**, to support the development and implementation of **Social Development Plans (SDPs)** across Toronto.

### **Why Social Development Plans Matter**

Toronto is entering a critical period, with the 2026 municipal election approaching and growing pressures across neighbourhoods — including housing instability, youth unemployment, increased cost of living, and community safety challenges. These pressures disproportionately impact **Black, Indigenous, and racialized residents**, as CABRAC clearly identified.

SDPs/Community Development Plans offer a **proven, data-driven, neighbourhood-based strategy** to address these inequities while strengthening social cohesion, improving safety, and building long-term resilience.

When the City partners directly with residents and invests in social infrastructure, experience has proven that there are concrete results in terms of fewer gun-related deaths, growth in youth employment, better coordinated service delivery, and more leadership opportunities for youth. The Regent Park SDP has contributed to measurable outcomes such as:

- Zero gun-related deaths in 2023
- Significant growth in **youth employment and leadership opportunities**.
- Strong community cohesion and coordinated service delivery.
- Resident-led initiatives supporting housing stability, employment pathways, and wellness programs

These outcomes reflect research highlighted in the Federation of South Toronto Residents Associations (FoSTRA) White Paper, and show that Social Development funding is among the most effective tools for improving neighbourhood well-being.

## Citywide Support for SDPs

Across Toronto, **29 resident associations** represented by FoSTRA have called for a **citywide rollout** of Social Development Plans/Community Development Plans as a cornerstone of equitable urban development. Neighbourhoods are requesting a structured framework and sustainable investment to coordinate this work.

## Equity, Anti-Black Racism, and Global Framework Alignment.

CABRAC has emphasized that SDPs are core **anti-Black racism interventions** because they:

- Address disparities in safety, housing, economic mobility, and service access
- Build community capacity and leadership
- Support equity-based, resident-led governance structures

## Budget Context

The request for SDP investments must also be understood within the broader 2026 budget context. The Toronto Police Service is seeking a **\$93.8 million increase** — roughly **\$600,000 per neighbourhood**. If we can consider increases of that scale for policing, the City must also commit to **sustained investments in prevention, equity, and community capacity**.

SDPs complement—not compete with—traditional public safety approaches by addressing root causes and strengthening neighbourhood resilience.

## Recommendation

I respectfully urge the Executive Committee to adopt CABRAC's recommendation and ensure the 2026 City Budget includes:

- \$250,000–\$500,000 in annual, ongoing funding per priority neighbourhood
- Dedicated support for neighbourhood associations and resident-led coalitions
- A citywide rollout of SDPs beginning with priority neighbourhoods
- Clear accountability measures aligned with equity frameworks and race-based data

This investment will advance community safety, equitable development, and the reduction of anti-Black racism across our city.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership at this critical moment. I would welcome the opportunity to further discuss the importance of Social Development Plans.

Sincerely,  
David Walsh

President  
Community Counts Foundation  
[david@dwalsh.ca](mailto:david@dwalsh.ca)  
416-361-1341