



July 22, 2025

Toronto City Council
c/o City Clerk's Office
City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
M5H 2N2

Re: Support for MM32.1, MM32.15, MM32.18, & MM32.22 - Section 37 and 45 Funds Allocated for Community Benefits in Wards 11 and 12

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Toronto City Council,

We are writing on behalf of the ABC Residents Association (ABCRA), a volunteer organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in our neighbourhood by actively engaging with local municipal issues. Our association represents residents of the Yorkville / Ramsden Park community in Toronto, which stretches from Yonge Street in the west to Avenue Road, and from Bloor Street in the north to the CPR tracks.

We wish to express our support for four motions appearing before Council at its July 23 meeting that allocate Section 37 and 45 funds toward local cultural, environmental, and safety improvements. These motions demonstrate the constructive and community-minded use of development contributions and reflect the kind of civic reinvestment our association supports.

MM32.1 - Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds to St. Clare's Multifaith Housing Society

This Councillor Saxe led motion directs \$150,000 in Section 37 funds received from the development at 1 Bloor Street West to St Clare's Multifaith Housing Society to steward additional renovations of The Nancy & Ed Jackman Performance Centre at 877 Yonge Street. Improvements encompass increased accessibility via automated door openers, streetscape upgrades and the construction of a new recording studio as a feature of the space. ABCRA has long supported the transformative work of Nightwood Theatre and Tapestry Opera in this facility and recognizes the importance of improving access to both cultural space and supportive housing. We also hope these enhancements will foster deeper ties between the arts, the community and the residents of this city-owned property.

MM32.15 and MM32.22 - Vale of Avoca Ravine Redesign and Trail Connectivity

We also support the combined funding of \$1.5 million from Section 37 (\$250,000), Section 45 (\$250,000) and capital funding (\$1 million) from Toronto Water and Parks and Recreation to fund a detailed interdivisional Master Plan for the redesign and restoration of the Vale of Avoca ravine. This support encompasses both Members Motions MM32.15, led by Councillor Saxe, and MM32.22, led by Councillor Matlow. The Vale of Avoca lies immediately north-east of our neighbourhood and is part of a broader ecological and recreational system centered around Yellow Creek that benefits residents citywide.

The ravine is a valued natural space that has suffered from long-term erosion, invasive species, and deteriorating trails. This initiative will enable design work focused on erosion control, slope stabilization, native planting, and the creation of a continuous and accessible ravine walking trail - a vital missing link in the broader trail network connecting the Beltline, Loop Trail, and nearby natural assets.

MM32.18 - Pedestrian Safety Signal at Avenue Road

This motion, brought forward by Councillor Saxe, is of direct importance to residents of the ABCRA catchment area. It allocates \$200,000 in Section 37 funds for the installation of a signalized pedestrian crossing near 215 Avenue Road. This long-awaited safety improvement addresses persistent concerns about the stretch of Avenue Road between Davenport Road and Dupont Street which currently have extremely narrow sidewalks, and no convenient access between the rapidly intensifying west side of Avenue Road and the new opening into Ramsden Park which is scheduled to be constructed next year.

Section 37 and 45 funds must be used locally - as intended, to deliver benefits to the neighbourhoods where intensification is occurring. These investments help ensure that developments are not just tolerated but embraced - especially when those developments are aligned with improved safety, new cultural assets, and restored natural spaces that residents can access and enjoy.

We respectfully urge City Council to approve each of these motions. Together, they demonstrate how thoughtful use of Section 37 and 45 funds can strengthen community life and improve the livability of neighbourhoods experiencing growth and change.

Sincerely,

The ABC Residents Association,
Ian Carmichael and John Caliendo,
Co-Chairs
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