

**June 24, 2025**

**Jonathan Okubay**

Executive Director, Eritrean Community Network  
208 - 339 Queen St E  
Toronto, ON

**Members of the North York Community Council**

c/o City Clerk's Office  
North York Civic Centre  
5100 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON M2N 5V7

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**RE: Support for the Hangar District Application**

Dear Members of the North York Community Council,

My name is Jonathan Okubay, and I serve as Executive Director of the Eritrean Community Network—a grassroots organization supporting youth development, healthy living activities, newcomer services, and cultural arts across the Greater Toronto Area.

Over the past three years, we've had the opportunity to build a meaningful relationship with Northcrest Developments through community engagement, and collaborative planning. From the outset, Northcrest has demonstrated a genuine commitment to listening, learning, and partnering with local organizations to ensure development efforts align with the needs and aspirations of the surrounding community.

Our involvement in the Community Resource Group (CRG) has provided an additional platform to engage with Northcrest in a transparent and forward-looking way. The CRG has created a space where community voices are not only heard but also actively shape the future of the Downsview site. We've been encouraged by the collaborative approach Northcrest has taken—marked by humility, consistency, and a clear intention to build long-term relationships grounded in trust and shared values.

We are especially excited by the proposed Community Benefits Plan, which reflects many of the priorities our organization and peers have advocated for over the years. From accessible and inclusive housing, to enhanced transit, to the creation of dedicated space for community programming and youth employment—this plan provides a framework that prioritizes equity, access, and local impact.

We strongly support the application for the Hangar District. We believe it lays the foundation for a development that is not only physically transformative, but also socially inclusive. The

approval of this application would allow for deeper partnerships, stronger community infrastructure, and a more vibrant and connected North York.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support. We look forward to continuing our collaboration and helping to bring the vision of the Hangar District to life—together.

Sincerely,

**Jonathan Okubay**

Executive Director

Eritrean Community Network