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June 23rd, 2025

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

Dear Members of the North York Community Council,

My name is Mohammed Al-Salem, and I am writing on behalf of Play Forever, where I serve as Founder and Executive. Play Forever is a charity organization focused on youth development, senior wellness, and community empowerment. We deliver free, accessible programs in underserved communities that support mental health, education, digital literacy, physical activity, and social connection across the Greater Toronto Area.

We have been engaged with Northcrest Developments over the past year through community events, program delivery and consultation. From the start, Northcrest has shown a clear interest in working alongside local organizations and understanding how their efforts can complement the work already happening in the community.

Our experience with Northcrest has been shaped by openness and mutual respect. Their team makes time to listen, to learn, and to understand the needs and values of organizations like ours. They approach partnerships with humility and care. When we have shared concerns or aspirations through our membership on the Downsview Community Resource Group, those conversations have not felt transactional. They have felt like part of a larger effort to build trust and strengthen the foundation of the area.

We support the application for the Hangar District because we have seen how Northcrest works behind the scenes and on the ground. They don't just show up for major announcements. They support the day-to-day efforts of local organizations. They help create space and capacity where it is needed most. They bring resources, but more importantly, they bring intentionality and consistency.

The Hangar District reflects what we believe is possible when development is community-informed and guided by shared values. We are particularly excited about the potential for this plan to bring new community spaces, opportunities for youth employment, accessible housing, and space for programs and services—all of which align directly with our mission and the needs of the people we serve.

This work has already created opportunities for connection and collaboration. With the approval of this application, we believe even more doors can open. It will provide a platform for continued partnership, stronger infrastructure for community work, and a chance to make North York a place where more people can thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our support.

Sincerely,

Mohammed Al-Salem