

June 26, 2025

Joe Williams  
Managing Director  
Oaks Revitalization Association  
700 Lawrence Ave W, Suite 350  
North York, ON M6A 3B4

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 Joe Williams, and I am writing on behalf of The Oaks Revitalization Association, where I serve as Managing Director. Our organization helps individuals from marginalized communities, especially those impacted by the justice system, build stable, middle-class lives through mentoring, skilled trades training, and meaningful employment opportunities, across Ontario.

We have been engaged with Northcrest Developments over the past 2 years through their community engagement and collaborative planning on community benefits. 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, 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 Taxiway West 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 Taxiway West District Community Benefits Plan reflects what we believe is possible when development is community-informed and guided by shared values. We are looking forward to the benefits this plan can bring, including more opportunities for youth employment through career-focused training and job placement programs, alongside dedicated spaces that deliver vital community services—everything from mentorship and mental health support to skills development and social programming.

The targets set in this plan for hiring and procurement represents industry best practices used by Toronto Community Housing Corporation on its projects. In addition, by organizing initiatives such as a Workforce Development Forum, which brought various agencies and non-profits together, demonstrates Northcrest's desire to build a Community Benefits Plan with the community at its core.

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.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joe Williams' with a small flourish at the end.

Joe Williams

Managing Director

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