

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Response to the Fire in Thorncliffe Park: Best Practices in Community Partnership

Moved by: Councillor Rachel Chernos Lin

Seconded by: Councillor Chris Moise

#### SUMMARY:

On November 27, 2025, a fire broke out in two connected buildings at 11 Thorncliffe Park Drive and 21 Overlea Boulevard. As a result, residents of nearly 400 units were displaced for more than a month as firefighters and first responders worked around-the-clock to extinguish the fire – a task complicated by the fact that the fire was located in a 25-50 millimetre gap between the tower walls, resulting in a prolonged smouldering of the compressed wood material that filled the space between buildings.

On the day of the fire, City divisions and agencies – particularly Toronto Fire Services - acted quickly to ensure the safety of residents. In the weeks to follow, we received regular updates on the status of the fire, and residents were provided with access to contacts to answer their questions and provide support for the duration of their displacement.

As crews worked to extinguish the slow-burning fire, community members and organizations came together to provide immediate and ongoing support to the residents of these buildings in their time of need. My office received many kind offers of support from individuals and groups from across the Ward, and across the City more broadly – the Don Valley West community is truly grateful for the outpouring of support in the wake of this incident.

In the aftermath of a fire incident of this scale and duration, it is essential that we take stock at the City and within the community to evaluate lessons learned, and best practices that can be implemented should similar situations occur in the future.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council request the Executive Director, Toronto Emergency Management, in consultation with the Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services, as well as relevant City divisions and community organizations involved in the response to the 2025 fire at 11 Thorncliffe Park Drive and 21 Overlea Boulevard, to report back to City Council by the end of Q1 2027 on best practices for the communication and coordination of supports across City divisions, agencies and community groups as part of the upcoming revision of the Emergency Human Services Policy.

Date: March 25, 2026