

**Cheryll Case**

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Cheryll Case
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Re: Item - 2026.MPB38.1.4 – 2026 Operating and Capital Budget

Dear members of City Council,

I am writing on behalf of CP Planning, a Toronto-based community network that practices a human rights-based approach to urban planning as a means of strengthening housing stability, neighbourhood wellbeing, and equitable development.

We are writing in support of the City allocating stable, ongoing funding for community-led planning, including Social Development Plans / Community Development Plans (SDPs/CDPs), as part of Toronto's 2026 Budget, consistent with the recommendation of the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee (CABRAC).

Why community-led planning matters

Community-led planning enables residents, neighbourhood associations, and community organizations to coordinate responses to local needs before crises escalate. When communities are resourced to plan together, they are better able to strengthen housing stability, improve community safety, and coordinate services. In our work, we consistently see that community-led planning functions as essential social infrastructure – supporting preventative, place-based solutions that improve social and economic wellbeing.

Community led planning is a proven solution for securing funds and building jobs that improve community health.

Evidence and alignment

CABRAC's recommendation to allocate \$250,000–\$500,000 annually per neighbourhood for SDPs/CDPs is grounded in clear evidence.

- The Regent Park Social Development Plan improved community safety, increased youth employment, and strengthened service coordinations.
- The Build a Better Bloor Dufferin community planning effort, secured a historic \$50 million community benefits package, including \$12.5 million in cash for affordable housing in Davenport - when political leaders said no wins were possible. These outcomes are observed by a diversity of Toronto organizations, including the Federation of South Toronto Residents Associations.

Investing in community-led planning aligns with the City's equity commitments, such as the HousingTO 2020 - 2030 Action Plan, Poverty Reduction Action Plan, and Partnered Approach to Inclusive Economic Development.

CP Planning's multi-year work supporting community-led planning initiatives across Toronto and other Ontario municipalities makes the impact very clear. Where communities have stable planning capacity, they are better positioned to prevent displacement, reduce harm, and translate care into coordinated action.

My experience clarifies to me that Council's investment into community-led planning is an essential key to unlocking the funds required to meet the City's diverse needs. This includes the \$1,892.14/resident in funds identified by the City of Toronto's Housing Secretariat as unmet and required to achieve their 2020-2030 Housing Plan. Funding SDPs/CDPs at the level recommended by CABRAC amounts to less than \$24.14 per person annually, yet delivers significant preventative value and economic development which increases the city's capacity to meet its diverse needs.

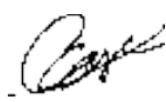
Request

We respectfully encourage City Council to allocate stable, ongoing funding for community-led planning, consistent with CABRAC's recommendation of \$250,000–\$500,000 per neighbourhood annually, as part of the 2026 City Budget.

Closing

CP Planning would welcome the opportunity to support implementation, share insights from our work, and collaborate with the City and community partners as these investments move forward. Thank you for your leadership and consideration of approaches that advance equitable, preventative, and community-based solutions to neighbourhood health and wellbeing.

Sincerely,



Cheryll Case

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