

Cheryll Case

Founder and Executive Director

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Email: Cheryll.Case@CPplanning.caWeb: <https://cpplanning.ca/>**To:** Councillors of the Planning and Housing Committee**Date:** April 13, 2026**Re: PH29.2 - Little Jamaica and Oakwood Vaughan Planning Framework - Proposals Report**

Dear Chair and Members of the Planning and Housing Committee,

We are writing to express both our appreciation for the continued attention to Little Jamaica, and to flag that the draft Framework, as presented, does not yet meet the scale, structure, or accountability required to effectively respond to the community's call for the City to address the displacement of renters or systemic anti-Black racism within land use, housing, economic, or social plans and/or processes.

Given the significant scale of public investment in the Crosstown LRT, the level of development pressure in the area, and the incredible leadership of grassroots organizations - the Framework must play a stronger role in guiding for more equitable outcomes. We recognize the City's intention to guide future planning policy, economic development, and community investment, including any future secondary plans, community improvement plans, and community development plans. Given this, it is essential that the Framework Plan, including its approach to community engagement - builds on previous work in partnership with the people who call Little Jamaica home.

Central to this work is the implementation of a coordinated, equity-centred approach that addresses systemic anti-Black racism, as directed by City Council and the Economic and Community Development Committee. To date, there has not been a clear public update on the status of the Partnership and Accountability Table directed in 2022, and the proposed Framework significantly narrows the planning boundary to primarily Oakwood Vaughan and the Eglinton corridor - excluding large portions of the Little Jamaica neighbourhood from planning protections or improvements, as well as social or economic development opportunities. This is significant, considering that the now excluded areas include the site where, in 2023, [inaction by City staff left a rooming house without heat, water and power for six months](#). A case some describe as one of the most harmful examples of systemic anti-Black racism in the City's decisions on housing.



Together, these shifts move away from the systemic, community-centred approach previously directed by Council, toward a more limited and fragmented framework. There remains an opportunity to correct course.

To ensure that this Framework responds to community leadership in asking for City staff and Council to ensure Little Jamaica is a place where renters are able to return, and thrive, we are calling for the following actions:

1. Restore the Full Community Planning Boundary

- Reinststate the original study area to reflect the full Little Jamaica neighbourhood - not just Oakwood Vaughan and the Eglinton corridor – while also extending the Western boundary to Bicknell as proposed in Framework Plan, in alignment with community reality. Original is the boundary as noted in the [2022 Little Jamaica Initiative - Master Plan and Aligned Initiatives: Introduction and Status Report](#). See Appendix 1 for diagrams.

2. Co-Create the Framework with the Community (Not Just Consultation)

- Shift from traditional consultation toward authentic co-creation and shared design of the Planning Framework. This requires working with the community through collaborative processes, transparently disclosing and jointly directing resources, and adequately resourcing community co-ownership in the process of gaining insights on what directions to take. The City should not externally procure planning/engagement services for the Little Jamaica Framework without collaboratively setting the scope and parameters with the Partnership and Accountability Table and Little Jamaica Coalition. The Little Jamaica community has already demonstrated sustained leadership through self-organized planning and implementation - often without City support. A co-creation approach recognizes this expertise and ensures the Framework is shaped with the community, not presented to it.

3. Establish Shared Governance and Accountability

- Implement a Partnership and Accountability Table, as previously directed by the Economic and Community Development Committee in 2022. To ensure accountability the list of community-leaders invited and selected to the Partnership and Accountability Table is co-created with community leaders, and the list of the Table's members is published on the City of Toronto's Little Jamaica Initiative website.

4. Ensure Coordinated Interdivisional Implementation and Oversight

- To ensure effective exploration of commitments to economic development, culture, affordable housing, community spaces, and anti-Black racism initiatives – a representative of the interdivisional Table must present their updates on progress and directions to the Partnership and Accountability as well as the Little Jamaica Community Coalition on a bi-monthly basis. The interdivisional table must also review and provide feedback on the community's draft [Little Jamaica Right to Remain Community Development Action Plan](#).



5. Establish Anti-Displacement Targets and Align to Strategies on Confronting Anti-Black Racism

- In collaboration with the Housing Secretariat, establish clear, measurable targets within the Framework Plan to reduce displacement, with a focus on renters - particularly Black residents - and align Framework targets with coordinated City actions that address the systemic drivers of anti-Black racism, including the Growing in Place initiative, Housing Strategy, and Toronto Black Food Sovereignty Plan of the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit.

These actions reflect prior Council direction, years of community-led work, and well-established principles of equitable city-building. **Realizing the opportunity to address displacement and systemic anti-Black Racism required co-design and joint planning process between City Planning and local stakeholders—residents, businesses, workers, and community organizations - not only consultation.** Given the timeline, we welcome the Framework as an initial step towards the City and Community working together to securing the supports required for follow up strategies meeting community needs.

We urge Council to align this Framework with its prior commitments and with the leadership already demonstrated by the Little Jamaica community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheryll Case

Founder and Executive Director
Community in Public
2575 Eglinton Avenue West

Co-lead

[Eglinton Allen Community Association](#)

We aim to bridge together neighbours and build community.

Geraldine Alexander

Business Owner
Natural Vybz
2637 Eglinton Ave W

Co-lead

[Keeleisdale Community Group](#)

Creating Sparks to ignite flames of positivity in our community.

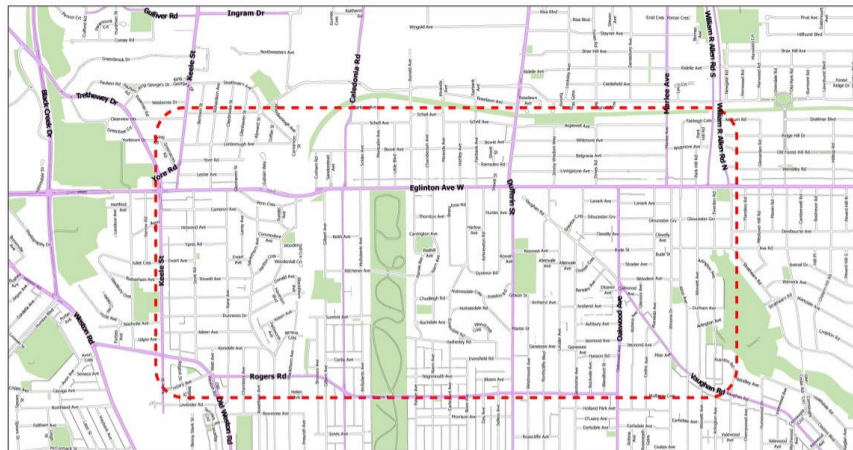
Additional signatories

- Little Jamaica Community Coalition
- Reclaim Rebuild Eglinton West
- York South Weston Tenant Union
- Climate Justice Toronto
- Shannon Spencer, Little Jamaica Resident
- Lyba Spring, Oakwood Vaughan Community Organization member
- Cassandra Creese, Vaughan Road Resident
- Alexis Dawson, Elected TDSB Trustee, Ward 9
- Teresa Pinto, Former resident of Little Jamaica who cares who cares about youth

Appendix 1

Diagram 1. Original Little Jamaica Study boundary

Per [Little Jamaica Initiative - Master Plan and Aligned Initiatives: Introduction and Status Report](#)

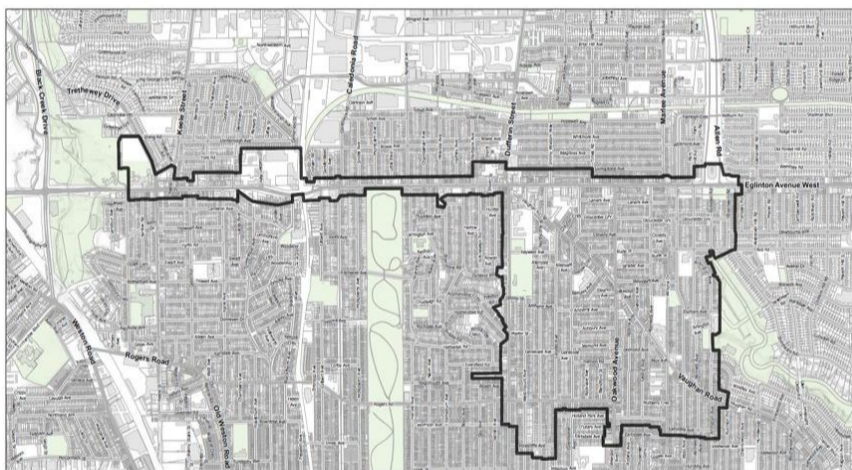


Area Map 4 - Public Streets and Laneways

MAJOR STREETS PUBLIC STREETS AND LANEWAYS AREA OF FOCUS

Not to Scale

Diagram 2. Little Jamaica and Oakwood Vaughan Planning Framework Area Framework Study Proposed Area



Draft Little Jamaica & Oakwood Vaughan Planning Framework

Parcel Map

Draft Little Jamaica & Oakwood Vaughan Planning Framework Area

Not to Scale

Diagram 3. Community supported boundary

