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Re: 67 Adelaide Street East

I am writing to share that Shelter, Support and Housing Administration (SSHA) and their selected operator, Na-Me-Res, and I have met on three occasions about their plans for the enhanced services at 67 Adelaide Street East. The topics discussed have been constructive and broad reaching. Many of the issues that I raised with SSHA and Na-Me-Res, are the same ones that I know have great community interest, such as property standards, safety, security, public order and 24/7 wraparound supports for the clients.

I explained to SSHA and Na-Me-Res that the soon to be renovated facility must be programmed and adequately resourced to ensure the health and well-being for all in the neighbourhood, both their clients and residents in the immediate area. This transitional living and shelter housing facility has been in development by SSHA for some time and the planning for the renovations began before the pandemic. This facility represents a new model of culturally appropriate care and support that we have not often seen in outdated and ineffective shelter programs.

Na-Me-Res is a well-regarded shelter and housing provider for Indigenous men. I have previously worked with them to introduce a new affordable housing program on Homewood Avenue. Furthermore, they successfully operate housing facilities across the city and have a stellar reputation for being neighbourhood-minded in their thoughtful approach to service delivery.

In the spirit of meaningful reconciliation, it is important to invest in facilities and programs that are culturally informed - thereby services created by Indigenous people for Indigenous people. Like all fair-minded citizens, I believe that everyone deserves a safe home and I know Na-Me-Res will work tirelessly with the City and all orders of government to obtain permanent stability housing for their new residents.

This building will be completely renovated and purpose retrofitted to include a formal reception area on Church Street and an outdoor space on the rooftop for residents. In addition, I have been assured that there will be many enhanced supports onsite including health care, housing management, employment counselling, job skill development and Ontario's first Indigenous Managed Alcohol Program (MAP).

I have asked Na-Me-Res to maintain a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) where local residents, businesses, BIA, neighbourhood association, property managers and other important stakeholders can meet monthly to open a dialogue to ensure the successful integration of this program into the neighbourhood. This will be an important step in developing a strong working relationship built on trust and honest communication among all parties. It will create a forum to enable regular and formal solution-making to address emerging issues. I look forward to remaining active in these community discussions.

Na-Me-Res has a long history of delivering innovative and successful programs in Toronto. There's no reason for us to expect anything less here. I look forward to working with the community to ensure this success.