

MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

Committee of the Whole (1)

DATE: Tuesday, January 17, 2023

**TITLE: SUPPORT FOR REENA'S INTEREST IN ACQUIRING
PROVINCIAL SUPPLUS LANDS AT DUFFERIN STREET AND
CENTRE STREET**

FROM:

Councillor Gila Martow

Whereas, the Ministry of Transportation has confirmed that certain lands at the southwest corner of Dufferin Street and Centre Street will not be used for a Highway 407 interchange and have therefore become surplus to the Province's needs;

Whereas, the Province of Ontario introduced its More Homes for Everyone plan to deliver solutions to address Ontario's housing supply and has enacted legislation in response such as the *More Homes for Everyone Act, 2022* and the *More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022*;

Whereas, the Province of Ontario is providing over four acres of surplus provincial land at the southwest corner of Dufferin Street and Centre Street to a not-for-profit to create new housing;

Whereas, Reena is a not-for-profit organization that promotes dignity, individuality, independence, and community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities;

Whereas, Reena is an organization with a proven track record of building, developing and maintaining residences and programming for adults with intellectual disabilities which include the Lou Fruitman Reena Residence, the Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre and the Reena Community Residence, all of which are located in the City of Vaughan;

Whereas, the Lou Fruitman Reena Residence integrated housing and support services to over 130 adults with diverse needs, and was built between 2019 and 2021 ahead of schedule during the COVID pandemic;

Whereas, according to Ontario Ombudsman Paul Dube's 2016 report, *Nowhere to Turn*:

- In 2014, nearly as many people living with developmental disabilities were on the wait list for suitable supportive housing (13,000) as were currently living in appropriate housing in Ontario (15,246)
- Between 2014 and 2016 only 800 adults received the needed housing support (a mere 6% of the 2014 wait list);

Whereas, in York Region, as of November 30, 2021, there are 640 individuals with developmental disabilities receiving supports, with a waiting list of 1,914 in need of residential service and support;

Whereas, it has been reported that 18% of people who are in homeless shelters have a developmental disability; and

Whereas, Reena has expressed an interest in acquiring the Province's surplus lands at the southwest corner of Dufferin Street and Centre Street.

It is therefore recommended:

1. That the City of Vaughan support Reena's request to acquire the provincial surplus lands at the southwest corner of Dufferin Street and Centre Street to further Reena's services for diverse needs within the City; and
2. That a copy of Council's resolution be forwarded to the Province.

Attachments

None