



Cesar Palacio Fall/Winter Report

City councillor - Ward 17
Davenport

Accessibility - Transparency - Financial Sustainability - Fairness **TORONTO**

Dear Friends,

I hope that you and your family are enjoying a safe and happy fall season. As always, there has been much going on at City Hall as well as in our community. Please take the time to read this newsletter as it is meant to provide you with important updates on local community initiatives. I hope you will find it informative.

Much has been accomplished this year! We have continued to move forward on many important initiatives: The St. Clair Environmental Assessment to ease gridlock on St. Clair, between Old Weston Road and Keele Street, is moving forward. The City's Infrastructure Planning Division are working on the planning, technical and cost analysis through the various options to better help create east-west bound connections to ease traffic congestion. This study was spearheaded by my office to look at alternatives to alleviate congestion at one of the worst bottlenecks in the City of Toronto. Please see page 2 for more information and stay tuned as a public meeting will be called in mid-2017.

Our Free Compost & Environment Days, Block Parties, Street Festivals, Community Clean-up Days, Movie Nights and Canada Day BBQ were all outstanding successes this year, as well as many meetings and events I've held over the last few months, which have afforded me the opportunity to chat with residents, listen to concerns and connect with friends as well as make new friends.

By now you have received your new Property Tax Assessment Notice. Carefully check the market value that has been assigned to your property to see if you have been over assessed in relation to other comparable properties in your community. I have successfully helped hundreds of local residents with their property assessment appeals, or "Requests for Reconsideration", and I'd be happy to assist you too.

In addition, the City is reminding pedestrians, motorists and cyclists to take extra care, especially when travelling in residential neighbourhoods. The City has produced "Slow Down Signs" that encourage all motorists to drive safely as they travel in our neighbourhoods. To get a lawn sign, please call or e-mail my office.

Together, let's continue to get **"MORE THINGS DONE"** for Ward 17.

Sincerely,

Cesar Palacio



Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy Holiday Season & a healthy and prosperous New Year!

I Fought and Will Continue Fighting to Keep Toronto Hydro Public

As the City Councillor for Ward 17-Davenport, I have **never** supported nor will I support privatizing Toronto Hydro or any other public utility, mainly ones that yield healthy and profitable dividends to the City.

Selling off an asset like Toronto Hydro "as reported by the media" might only provide temporary financial relief but it will not provide the City of Toronto with a stable long-term solution. For example, within the past four years, Toronto Hydro Corporation declared and paid: \$48M in 2012, \$43M in 2013, \$60.6M in 2014 and \$56.3M in 2015, totalling **\$207.9 million dollars** which helps to balance the City's annual operating budgets.

What I find most frustrating and completely outrageous is the recent media reports over the Toronto Hydro Board decision to reduce the dividend to \$25 million dollars leaving a \$35 million hole in the 2017 City operating budget which is totally unacceptable.

To date, there have been no facts, studies or compelling cases made to sell Toronto Hydro - so why consider selling a profitable asset?

I want you to be assured that I will not support the sale of Toronto Hydro.

Ward 17 Community Safety Forum with Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders



By the time you receive this newsletter, our annual Community Safety Forum would have been held at Blessed Pope Paul School on November 29, 2016. A notice was sent out to the community informing members of the public to attend this important forum.

Safety Forums are organized to discuss crime prevention strategies, problematic locations, illegal activities and most importantly to give our local community the opportunity to speak directly to our dedicated police force including our police chief - these forums are a proactive way to get involved in keeping our community safe.

See page 2

Getting MORE Things Done

Ward 17 Community Safety Forum with Toronto Police Chief Mark Saunders

As the days get shorter and the weather gets colder, it seems like more criminal activities are taking place. It cannot be stressed enough how important it is to take necessary steps to minimize your risk of becoming a victim of crime. Here are a few safety tips:

- Make sure all doors, windows and skylights to your house and garage are closed and locked
- Park your vehicle in a locked garage if available
- Install exterior lighting around the perimeter of your home
- Trim back bushes and plants to help deter concealment for someone lurking around
- Be aware of your surroundings and what is going on in your neighbourhood
- Report any suspicious person(s) or activities to the police

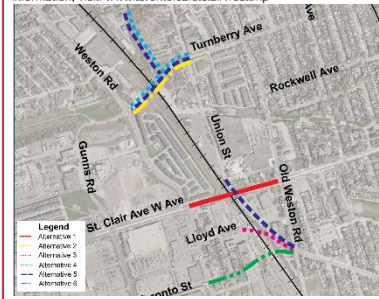
Please let me reassure you that community safety is my top priority and that I will do everything in my power to ensure that you, your families, and neighbours are safe. Therefore, it is imperative that we continue to strengthen this line of communication between the police and community to ensure that Ward 17 remains safe in the months and years to come.

Update on Decongesting St. Clair Avenue West Area - Transportation Master Plan Update:

The St. Clair Ave. West Transportation Master Plan (environmental assessment) continues to move forward. The good news is that, at my request, City Council and Metrolinx have approved to add a new transit station at St. Clair Ave. West and Keele Street along the Kitchener / Union Pearson Express GO Line.

Efforts are now underway to integrate the planning of both studies to achieve cohesive, stronger and better connections that will further help alleviate traffic congestion plaguing this area.

My office will be holding a community meeting in 2017 whereby the City of Toronto will reveal which combination of the 6 options below will be recommended as the most effective and how the recommendations will be integrated with planning for the Smart Track Station. For further information, visit: www.toronto.ca/stclairwesttmp



The Stop Community Food Centre

I'm glad to report that the Stop Community Food Centre was approved for a property tax exemption at City Council's October 5th meeting. As the local City Councillor I have witnessed, over the years, the Stop's unwavering commitment to serve a community in need. The Stop provides a variety of local community activities, an integral model of excellent services, and advocacy towards poverty reduction.

NEW Green P Parking Lot at 94 Northcliffe Blvd.

This NEW Toronto Parking Authority parking lot is now fully operational offering additional parking to help service the local community and Regal Heights Business Improvement Area businesses. Please note my office continues to work closely with the City's Transportation Division and Toronto Police Services to address some traffic violations.

Thank you to the Regal Heights Business Improvement Association (BIA) and the local resident associations for their help and hard work in advocating for this new landscaped investment facility.

Update on St. Clair/Silverthorn Public Library Branch

The St. Clair / Silverthorn Library continues to be a popular learning hub in our community. I want you to know that the current library is scheduled to be demolished and a new 2 storey library will be built in its place (construction will begin in the Spring and should take approximately two years to complete). The NEW library will offer a complete re-design of the floor layout, barrier free access to the second floor, additional quiet space for studying, a barrier free washroom and an elevator. Conceptual rendering of the new facade and street improvements are pictured below.



Development Updates in Ward 17

- **Graywood Development (1771 St. Clair Ave. W.):**
This 6 storey mixed use building will include 72 residential units and commercial storefronts at street level.
- **177 Caledonia Road Development:**
Following the bankruptcy of Urban Corp, I'm pleased to announce that a new developer has purchased the site. The development will be home to 41 semi-detached units along with a community parkette.
- **150 Bronco Avenue:**
12 Developments is planning to build 28 Townhouses at 150 Bronco Avenue (Formerly Vem Building Supplies).
- **Shoppers Drug Mart (St. Clair Ave. W. & Via Italia):**
Shoppers will be constructing a new 3 storey office building with a retail pharmacy on the main floor along with a green boulevard on Via Italia. Recent delays were caused by an appeal to the OMB. At my request, City Legal and Planning attended the OMB hearing and the application was approved.
- **New - University Health Network (918-928 St. Clair Ave W):**
The University Health Network will be opening a brand new location at this site and providing primary care services. It is expected to open this winter.
- **Alberta and Main Urban Properties Developments:**
Located at 898-900 St. Clair Avenue West, this development proposes a 12 storey mixed use building with 121 residential units and ground floor retail space. A similar built form planning application is coming to 908-916 St. Clair Ave West.