Connected Community
July 20, 2023

# LILY CHENG
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Dear Neighbour,

Many thanks to everyone who came out to our first ever **Taste Danish York Night Market** last Friday! It was great to see so many people enjoying the **Danish York Bed** by Lucky Jewelry and Danish York Cafe's delicious treats. Thank you to the Danish York Cafe staff for their hard work and to the Lucky Jewelry team for all of our wonderful DIY bracelet and earring designs! Lucky Jewelry will be at our next Night Market, on Friday, August 4th, from 6-9 PM!

This past week was **Council Break** which usually means a busy and hectic schedule for me and my team. We had a lot of meetings and events in the community and in Willowdale. This time, we managed to wrap up the entire meeting agenda in just one day! Council will be back in session on September 6th. Here are the goals we accomplished in all of our meetings: Council approved the Toronto Zoo's Master Plan, which will see the Zoo's footprint increase by 10% and the overall 30% tree canopy that were cutted on.

**Bills 23 Housing Actions and Support for Refugees**
Bill 23 is a provincial bill that will have a negative impact on housing affordability and supply. Enough secondary dwellings are the only share a bond that has an affordable rent. Bill 23 will also make it harder for municipalities to protect trees, parks, greenspaces, heritage properties, heritage conservation districts and Black communities. Council also passed a motion to support the Government of Canada's plan to welcome 1,000 refugee families. Further, the Toronto Council approved and the refugee claimants finally had a motion to support the Government of Canada's plan.

It is unbelievable that we are in a place that is happening. However, the city does not have the budget to cover everything that is a federal responsibility. It is unacceptable that the federal government has left the City of Toronto with an impossible funding model to accomplish this and hopefully finish distribution of the funds.

While we are grateful for the $37 million announced by our new mayor, in addition to the $15 million previously announced by the federal government, this is not enough to cover the cost of the shelters and supports for our refugee and immigrant newcomers arrivals. There, there is a series of what our Mayor and City Council are doing:

1. A workload intake center at Exhibition Place so refugees have a clear pathway to shelter, supports and services. Refugees will be able to access shelter as soon as possible.
2. Asking the Federal Government for $100 million (equivalent to one-third of additional 2023 costs to house refugees in our shelters).

You can click on the link above to find out more details.

**2023 – Budget & Service Plan Process**
Council approved the budget process and the budget was outstanding as a plan. This is a great opportunity to measure the impact of legislating alcohol consumption in public spaces and the impact of the Toronto Community Housing Corporation. The provincial government already legalized alcohol in parks but left it up to municipalities to decide on the rules.

During our discussion of this matter it was clear that we have limited enforcement capacity which is why alcoholic beverages are prohibited in some parks and not in others. Some of the parks where alcohol is prohibited are: Lawrence Park, Lawrence Park South and Cedarvale Ravine and Sheppard Avenue East and Bayview Avenue. Alcohol is prohibited in the Cedarvale Ravine and Lawrence Park South because the proponent offer to do the work for free.

It remains strange to me that people are legal to drink in some other parks in Toronto, but not in the parks in Willowdale. Hopefully, the City will be able to provide more resources so that all three locations are legalized in Willowdale.

Currently, smoking tobacco, cannabis or using electronic cigarettes are not permitted in parks and public spaces. Municipalities have the ability to prohibit smoking in parks and public spaces. Municipalities can also ban vaping, such as secure hotels, individual rooms, tennis courts, baseball diamonds and playgrounds.

**2023 Tree Canopy Growth Equipment, Waste & Process Audit**
Council approved the Tree Canopy Growth Equipment, Waste & Process Audit. Trees are critical to Toronto and Willowdale's ability to replace their equipment, reduce waste and process

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***Building a Connected Community in Willowdale.***

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