

Notice of Motion: From Trustee Maria Rizzo

Re: Public Disclosure of the Agreement and Purchase of Sale with TCDSB and Villa Charities (Intergenerational Community Hub)

Whereas on December 19, 2012 a memorandum of understanding was signed between the TCDSB and Villa Charities to enter into a joint venture intergenerational community hub to replace Dante Alighieri Academy; and

Whereas the Provincial government has approved \$32.8 million to replace Dante Alighieri Academy Catholic School; and

Whereas the province approved a community hub between Villa Charities and the TCDSB in the Lawrence and Dufferin neighbourhood; and

Whereas the TCDSB has an agreement with Villa Charities to purchase approximately 3.467 acres of land at the western portion of 901 Lawrence Avenue West; and

Whereas the land purchase will be funded through Education Development Charges (EDC's) and the sole purpose of EDC funds is to provide for the present/future educational needs of students; and

Whereas EDC funds can only be used to purchase land in residential growth areas across the city and the Dufferin/Lawrence area is experiencing significant residential development and is an eligible growth area; and

Whereas neither taxpayers' money nor provincial grants for education will be used to purchase land from Villa Charities; and

Whereas TCDSB and Villa Charities board members and staff have been accused of 'secret deals', and wrong doing by members of the public, local politicians and in various articles/letters published in the Corriere Canadese; and

Whereas Villa Charities has consented to public disclosure of the land transaction; and

Whereas the TCDSB has historically conducted land transactions in camera as required by legislation; and

Whereas contrary to criticism TCDSB has nothing to “hide” from public scrutiny; and

Whereas public accountability demands transparency of financial information.

Therefore be it resolved that the agreement of purchase and sale be disclosed and made public; and

Further be it resolved that the TCDSB disclose all financial information publicly (except for information in the public realm: eg. community consultation fees that are on the TCDSB website). All costs related to this project including consultants, architects, planners, engineers etc. be included and disclosed publicly.