



DELISLE YOUTH SERVICES

"Serving the youth and families of North Toronto and the Greater Toronto Community since 1970"

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8(b).

June 10, 2004

Att: Josephine Bryant
City Librarian
Office of the City Librarian
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
M4W 2G8

Re: Submission for the Board

Thank you for the opportunity to speak directly with the Board on this matter. We sincerely appreciate your interest and your willingness to hear our case.

I represent the following non-profit groups who are presently renting space at 40 Orchard View Blvd. For the past several months we have been involved in some very difficult, and sometimes frustrating negotiations regarding the renewal of leases at 40 Orchard View Blvd.

Negotiations have been difficult for a number of reasons including but not limited to the following:

- The Library Board's need to resolve outstanding leases for the building
- Changes in property management personnel
- The financial limitations of all the non-profits in the building who operate under funding agreements that do not allow for any increases in base funding allocations for rent.

As part of the Vision of the Toronto Library Board, there is a stated commitment to the following. ***"As cornerstones of their neighbourhoods, our libraries connect people to each other, to their community, and to their hopes and dreams"***. It is in support of this vision that we are asking you, as a Board, to maintain the original status of 40 Orchard View Blvd. as a community building that will provide a community centre for services that support the people who live and work in this neighbourhood.

We have the same values as the library: providing accessibility for diverse groups, valuing individual needs and looking beyond where we are today. We share your mission of universal accessibility to a broad range of human knowledge, and of experiencing information and ideas in a welcoming and supportive environment.

In order to maintain this vision, we must deal with the realities of the world, such as paying the rent.

In order for us to share this vision, we are asking you, as a community partner, to allow us a non-profit-friendly lease that will allow us to continue with our valuable community-based work.



A United Way member agency

As a group, we are asking for a five-year lease at the rental rate of \$4.10 as well as a freeze of the maintenance costs of 4% a year. We are also asking for a reduction of the common space from 19% to 12.5%. We would also like protection from any major capital costs over the next five years. All of us share your values of integrity and we will furthermore share our current financial situations, inviting you to do the same as to maintain an open and honest approach.

By committing to these terms we can re-establish the shared vision of 40 Orchard View and make it accessible to other non-profit groups. We will also commit to work with the Toronto Library Board to find other non-profit agencies for the empty space that is currently available in the building, thus making 40 Orchard View the dynamic, vibrant, community hub that will fulfill its potential and the vision of the Toronto Library Board.

We sincerely thank you for your consideration of this matter and look forward to further discussions.

Sincerely,

John Nicholson
Acting Executive Director