

## **MAYOR PATRICK BROWN**

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March 9, 2023

The Honourable Neil Lumsden, MPP  
Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport  
438 University Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

The Hon. Charmaine Williams  
MPP – Brampton Centre  
456 Vodden Street East  
Brampton, ON L6S 5Y7

Sent via: [Minister.Lumsden@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.Lumsden@ontario.ca)  
[Charmaine.Williams@pc.ola.org](mailto:Charmaine.Williams@pc.ola.org)

**RECEIVED**

**March 9, 2023**

REGION OF PEEL  
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

### **Re: Proportional Funding for Emancipation Park Servicing Enhancements**

Dear Minister Lumsden and MPP Williams,

We are writing to you on behalf of Brampton City Council regarding a motion passed at City Council on March 1, 2023 (*Appendix 4*) asking Brampton Centre MPP Charmaine Williams and the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport to provide the proportional funding for a feasibility study and servicing on provincially owned land leased by the City of Brampton at Emancipation Park.

Emancipation Park, located south of Highway 407 at Dixie Road, is a 100-acre green space, which was renamed in June 2020 through a motion tabled by then local City Councillor Williams. The park honours the abolition of slavery and is the only Emancipation Park in Canada. It is a symbol of Brampton's rich diversity and supports our commitment to eradicate systemic anti-Black racism by uplifting the social, cultural and economic position of our Black community.

In the words of City Councillor Williams, as stated in the August 1, 2022 news release, *"As the first Black woman elected to city council in the history of Brampton, I was proud to move the motion to create a recognition of Emancipation in October of 2019. The recent events that have elevated our understanding of anti-Black racism could not have been foreseen when I brought this initiative forward."*

REFERRAL TO \_\_\_\_\_  
RECOMMENDED \_\_\_\_\_  
DIRECTION REQUIRED \_\_\_\_\_  
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒ \_\_\_\_\_

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At the August 1, 2022 City of Brampton celebrations at Emancipation Park, the community requested the City provide additional servicing, such as water and hydro access, a flush toilet facility and other amenities, similar to those in large parks across the city. On August 10, 2022, Council directed staff to report back on means of improving the Emancipation Day celebration event, including field quality and maintenance, toilet facilities, shade development, and lighting at Emancipation Park.

A February 22, 2023 report tabled at Committee of Council (*Report Appendix 2*) stated that the City of Brampton owns 60.23 acres of the land and leases 48.31 acres from the Province of Ontario (*Map Appendix 3*).

Staff conducted a preliminary assessment, which identified an estimated cost of \$4,200,000 to provide electrical, water and underground services at this park. As per the report recommendation, the City would have to also conduct a feasibility study for servicing, as the area is landlocked (*Map Appendix 4*). The cost for a study is approximately \$300,000 and requires access to the provincially owned lands.

As we understand, there are plans for a Bus Rapid Transit line to be developed on the property, with timelines to be determined by the province, which may affect future infrastructure implemented in the park and may require the City to terminate the leased portion of the land, with the province only providing a one year written notice.

Given that this local community park is in the riding of MPP Williams, and she championed the historic renaming of the park, our hope is that your passion to have this park equitably serviced also includes support and funding to cover the costs and risk associated with the provincially owned lands.

Minister Lumsden, we hope you will also appreciate what Emancipation Park symbolizes, not only in Brampton, but also in Canada, as it celebrates Emancipation Day – the enactment of the Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 – and our nation's commitment to reflect, educate and engage in the ongoing fight against anti-Black racism and discrimination.

Lastly, while we await your response to proportionately fund the servicing requirements for the provincially owned portion of the land at Emancipation Park, as per the motion (*Appendix 4*), the City of Brampton will be investing in interim enhancement solutions for additional grass maintenance, tree planting, potential solar lighting, and a generated washroom facility for implementation before summer 2023 so Brampton residents have accessible park amenities.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this important matter with you further, and thank you in

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advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patrick Brown  
Mayor, City of Brampton



Pat Fortini  
Regional Councillor, Wards 7 & 8, City of Brampton



Rod Power  
City Councillor, Wards 7 & 8, City of Brampton

cc: Mr. Nando Iannicca, Chair, Region of Peel  
Ms. Aretha Adams, Regional Clerk, Region of Peel  
Mr. Dewitt Lee, Founder, Emancipation Month and CoFounder, Black Voter Base