



# Firgrove

## *focus*

Connecting the community | March 2020 issue

### FLICC closed until further notice



On Thursday February 14, there was a major fire at Firgrove Learning and Innovation Community Centre (FLICC) that caused significant damage to the building. The fire is currently under investigation and FLICC will be closed until further notice. FLICC staff and TCHC staff are working together to ensure FLICC programming continues.

#### Changes to FLICC programming are as follows:

- The **Friday Food Hub** is moved to the **Boardroom at 5 Needle Firway**
- The **Children's Homework Club** will operate out of the **Firgrove Revitalization Office at 22 Needle Firway**

A Community Meeting will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6 p.m. at Firgrove Public School to provide an update on the fire investigation and discuss interim and long-term FLICC programming.

We are working to ensure the community is supported through this difficult time, and will be working with FLICC staff and volunteers to connect the community to relevant supports.

# Firgrove at City Hall: Deputations

On February 12, Marius Mutazihara and Ose Okonofua, two Firgrove tenants, and Barry Reider, an active community member, deputed at Toronto's Planning and Housing Committee concerning the Initial Development Proposal for the Firgrove-Grassways Revitalization. Their passionate deputations captured the attention of everyone in the room: City Council, staff and community members alike. As a result, Councillor Paula Fletcher put forward a motion requesting the Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services work directly with TCHC to facilitate the relocation of the Firgrove tenants living in the remaining 92 apartments.



Marius Mutazihara and Ose Okonofua

## Firgrove deputation workshop

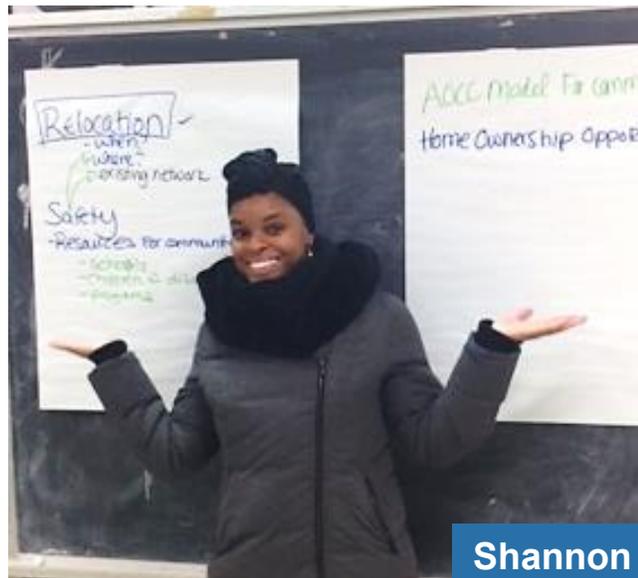
On February 10, Firgrove's Shannon Holness hosted a deputation workshop for tenants. A deputation is a written or verbal presentation that residents, community groups or any interested parties can present to a City Council Committee or Board.

The purpose of the workshop was to build tenants' understanding of:

- What a deputation is
- Why should someone depute
- The process of deputing

Tenants were engaged in the workshop, and had many stories, thoughts and opinions to share with one another. This included moving recollections about living in Firgrove over the years, as well as odes to the beauty and power of community.

Shannon is an urban planner. She sits on the Board of Directors for FLICC and has deep roots in Firgrove as a long-time resident and active community member.



Shannon Holness

# Community Update Meeting

Toronto Community Housing Corporation (TCHC) held a community update meeting on February 6, for tenants at the FLICC. At this meeting, Councillor Anthony Perruzza provided opening remarks and answered questions from tenants around the proposed revitalization.



Councillor Perruzza

TCHC staff from various departments also provided updates on the following topics:

- Revitalization and Master Plan
- Needle Firway refurbishments
- Tenant engagement
- Maintenance
- Safety
- TCHC Restructuring

# Firgrove Festive Season Celebration

Although the weather outside was frightful, the holiday festivities inside the FLICC on the afternoon of Saturday December 14, 2019, were delightful. FLICC's annual Festive Season party brought out more than 100 tenants, staff, and community partners in and around the Firgrove community. This was a holiday party jam-packed with fun activities, live entertainment, and mouth-watering cuisine collectively prepared by many neighbourhood residents and volunteers in FLICC's commercial kitchen.

Children, youth, adults, and seniors all participated in the festive activities that took place – namely the raffle put on by TCHC with trendy snapback and fitted hats donated by Ameera McIntosh, a Community Service Coordinator working in the Central District.

Some other highlights of the afternoon were the distribution of more than 50 jackets and gifts given to children from Firgrove's very own Santa Claus.

Overall, the event filled Firgrove resident's hearts with great holiday cheer.



Santa Claus

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