



**James Pasternak**  
Councillor | York Centre - Downsview

**Toronto City Hall**

City Hall, 100 Queen St. West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, A22  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

March 9, 2023

## Endorsement Letter for the Establishment of the Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation

To Whom It May Concern,

Public spaces in neighbourhoods are one of our most important civic infrastructures in this city. These spaces provide a central location for organizing community services, preserving local history and advancing social contributions. They address recreational needs throughout the seasons, advance artistic expressions, and serve as a social hub for people of all ages and abilities. When planned right, these community spaces also serve as an access point that preserves urban green spaces through important design features and programming that contributes to the overall health and well-being of local communities via outdoor and indoor leisure and recreation.

With these principles of sustainable community-building at the core of this initiative, it is my distinct pleasure to offer my endorsement and support for the establishment of the Somali Cultural and Recreation Centre in Toronto. I commend Toronto City Council for passing a motion in July 2022 that commits to and supports the establishment of this Centre.

This Centre is an important community infrastructure project that will tangibly benefit the vibrant and diverse Somali community in Toronto and the residents of the city at large. I am excited that this Centre will serve as a hub of excellence that preserves and celebrates the immense cultural contributions of Toronto's Somali community and enhances the cultural fabric of this world-class city. Further, I am hopeful that the establishment of this Centre will provide a unique and innovative space for community-based organizations to create, build and grow.

Most importantly, I support this important initiative because it will create a high-quality, accessible public space that serves as the core of Somali community life in Toronto.

Sincerely,

**James Pasternak**

City Councillor for Ward 6 – York Centre  
Chair, North York Community Council  
Chair, General Government Committee

cc: Zakaria Abdulle, Chair of the Somali Centre for Culture and Recreation

