Top Priorities if Elected Councillor – Sileen Phillips

- **Deliver practical affordability measures** that residents can feel in their daily lives — especially around housing, food access, and transit reliability.
- **Strengthen community safety through prevention**, focusing on youth supports, mental wellness, and neighbourhood stability rather than punitive approaches.
- **Invest in resilient infrastructure**, including flood mitigation and reliable TTC service, to ensure the ward is prepared for future challenges.
- **Expand access to recreation and community programming**, especially for youth, seniors, and low-income households.
- **Develop a ward-specific website** that connects residents, organizations, agencies, community groups, and businesses.

Housing Affordability and Support for Renters

- **Protect existing rental housing** by addressing renovictions, illegal rent increases, and poor maintenance standards.
- **Expand deeply affordable and supportive housing**, working with non-profit and Indigenous housing partners.
- **Improve renter supports**, including access to legal information, rent bank programs, and emergency stabilization services.
- **Accelerate approvals** for non-profit and rent-controlled housing, ensuring new developments include meaningful affordability.
- **Centre lived experience**, especially youth, newcomers, and low-income families who are most affected by rising costs.

Food Insecurity in the Ward

- **Strengthen partnerships** with food banks, faith communities, and local organizations to expand meal programs and reduce duplication.
- **Improve access to low-cost groceries**, including advocating for mobile markets, community fridges, and subsidized produce programs.
- **Support youth and seniors**, who are disproportionately affected by food insecurity and often rely on community-based meal services.

- **Integrate food access into housing and shelter planning**, recognizing that nutrition is part of safety, dignity, and stability.
- **Use your pastoral and counselling background** to highlight how food insecurity intersects with trauma, homelessness, and mental health.

Access to Recreational Programming

- **Expand low-cost and no-cost programming**, especially for youth, seniors, and families facing affordability barriers.
- **Increase access across the ward**, ensuring programs are available in neighbourhoods that currently lack facilities or face long waitlists.
- **Partner with schools, community centres, and faith organizations** to deliver programming in accessible spaces.
- **Prioritize culturally relevant and trauma-informed activities**, recognizing the diverse needs of the ward's communities.
- **Ensure stable funding** so programs are not vulnerable to annual cuts or inconsistent staffing.

Investments in Addressing Youth Violence and Encouraging Youth Programming

- **Shift from reactive policing to proactive prevention**, focusing on mental wellness, mentorship, and stable community supports.
- **Invest in youth hubs**, after-school programs, and employment pathways that give young people safe spaces and real opportunities.
- **Collaborate with frontline organizations**, including Frontlines and other local youth agencies, including faith based programs to build trauma-informed interventions.
- **Address root causes** — poverty, food insecurity, housing instability, and lack of safe spaces — rather than symptoms.
- **Promote community-led safety strategies**, ensuring youth voices shape the solutions.

Flood Prevention

- **Advance stormwater infrastructure upgrades**, especially in neighbourhoods with aging systems or repeated basement flooding.

- **Support green infrastructure**, including permeable surfaces, tree planting, and naturalized areas that reduce runoff.
- **Ensure transparent timelines** for planned capital works and advocate for accelerated delivery where risk is highest.
- **Work with homeowners and landlords** to improve property-level flood mitigation measures.
- **Integrate climate resilience** into all planning and development decisions.

TTC Availability and Reliability Across the Ward

- **Improve bus frequency and reliability**, especially on routes serving York South–Weston's transit-dependent neighbourhoods.
- **Advocate for better service integration** between TTC, GO, and UP Express to reduce travel times and improve accessibility, especially along the Eglinton route.
- **Address gaps in coverage**, ensuring residents in underserved areas have consistent access to transit.
- **Support investments in safety, cleanliness, and station maintenance**, recognizing that reliability includes the rider experience.
- **Push for equitable transit planning**, ensuring the ward receives the same level of attention as downtown corridors.

Top Priorities if Elected Councillor — Practical Steps

- Establish a **Ward 5 Community Priorities Table** bringing together resident groups, youth agencies, faith communities, and service providers to coordinate action and avoid duplication.
- Introduce **quarterly public progress reports** so residents can track commitments and hold the office accountable.
- Create a **rapid-response constituent support team** to help residents navigate housing, TTC, flooding, and safety issues.

Housing Affordability & Support for Renters — Practical Steps

- Work with MLS and Municipal Licensing to **increase proactive inspections** of rental buildings with repeated complaints.
- Expand access to the **Toronto Rent Bank** and **Eviction Prevention in the Community (EPIC)** by hosting ward-specific clinics.
- Push for **as-of-right mid-rise zoning** on major streets in the ward to increase supply without lengthy rezonings.
- Partner with non-profit developers to **fast-track deeply affordable units** through the Open Door program.
- Advocate for a **Renter Support Navigator** in the ward office to help residents with forms, disputes, and landlord communication.

Food Insecurity — Practical Steps

- Support expansion of **mobile food markets** and subsidized produce programs in neighbourhoods with limited grocery access.
- Provide small grants to **community fridges**, meal programs, and faith-based food initiatives to stabilize operations.
- Work with Parks & Rec to increase **community garden plots** and explore rooftop or vertical growing spaces.
- Integrate food access into shelter and supportive housing planning by ensuring **on-site meal programs** and partnerships with local kitchens.

- Convene a **Ward Food Security Roundtable** to coordinate agencies and reduce service gaps.

Access to Recreational Programming — Practical Steps

- Increase funding for **no-cost youth and senior programs**, especially in neighbourhoods with long waitlists.
- Partner with TDSB/TCDSB to open **school gyms and fields** for evening and weekend community use.
- Pilot **pop-up recreation programs** in parks and community spaces where no formal facilities exist.
- Advocate for **extended hours** at existing community centres and ensure programming reflects cultural diversity.
- Secure stable funding for **trauma-informed and newcomer-focused programs**.

Youth Violence Prevention & Youth Programming — Practical Steps

- Expand **youth hubs** offering mentorship, mental health supports, employment pathways, and safe spaces.
- Fund **violence interruption and mediation programs** led by trained community workers rather than police.
- Increase access to **after-school programming**, including arts, sports, and leadership development.
- Partner with Covenant House Toronto and similar agencies to build **trauma-informed interventions** for at-risk youth.
- Advocate for redirecting a portion of community safety funding toward **mental wellness, addiction supports, and youth employment**.

Flood Prevention — Practical Steps

- Accelerate stormwater upgrades in high-risk areas by pushing for **priority scheduling** in the capital plan.
- Expand **backflow valve and sump pump subsidies** for homeowners and landlords.
- Increase permeable surfaces through **green infrastructure**, tree planting, and naturalized boulevards.

- Require new developments to include **on-site stormwater retention** and climate-resilient design.
- Publish **ward-specific flood risk maps** and host workshops on property-level mitigation. **For the planned mitigation launch for Smythe Park,** meet with the residents to discuss their concerns about the current plan, including a panel of experts they choose to help educate everyone about those concerns in specific detail, and insist on a review of the current plan before it is launched.

TTC Availability & Reliability — Practical Steps

- Advocate for **increased bus frequency** on key routes serving York South–Weston. **The Eglinton West corridor** being top priority, based on residents' expressed concerns.
- Push for **real-time reliability reporting** so residents can see delays and service gaps.
- Work with Metrolinx to improve **GO/TTC/UP Express integration**, including fare alignment and better transfer points.
- Identify and address **coverage gaps** by proposing new or adjusted bus routes.
- Support investments in **station cleanliness, lighting, and safety**, recognizing that reliability includes rider experience.

It is very important to note that these plans are hypothesized as there needs to be confusion for other factors, such as fiscal implications.