## Habiba Desai

Councillor Candidate in the City of Toronto, Ward 24 City of Toronto

The following answers were provided by the candidate in response to <u>a letter sent by the Toronto Society</u> of Architects on September 20, 2022 outlining three questions related to issues of the built environment. Answers have been copied and pasted into this page for clarity and ease of access, but all answers are verbatim and no changes or edits have been made.

Q1: Housing is a fundamental human right, and yet an increasing number of residents across the Greater Toronto Area are struggling to pay rent or find an affordable place to live. What policies and actions do you believe need to be implemented to address this crisis?

**A:** Step 1: Work with Federal and Provincial Governments to Build Homes and Communities in Rural Ontario Towns and Villages that need population growth and have the facilities already established to make development easier.

Step 2: Give people free land and homes in these areas to move to and have ownership of but cannot be sold for 99 years in order to create generational wealth and stronger family connections to different areas.

Q2: The design, construction and operation of our built environment accounts for nearly 40% of energy related carbon emissions, contributing to the ongoing climate crisis affecting us today. What do you believe needs to be prioritised to reduce carbon emissions within the built environment?

**A:** Step 1: Invest in Homes and Buildings made from sustainable materials, like Wood merged with more efficient designs and modern technology.

Step 2: Reward developers that use sustainable materials and Canadian domestic materials for building.

Step 3: Households with negative carbon footprints should be rewarded with reduction in property taxes for operating an economically sustainable household.

Q3: In towns and cities, so much of life happens in the shared public spaces—in our parks, libraries and streets. How can we ensure these civic spaces achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction, and that they are properly maintained so they may continue to serve future generations?

A: Achieve design excellence in their initial conception and construction by creating inclusive designs that do not

harm the community or the environment and are also beneficial for the economic growth of the community. This means creating places so beautiful, they become tourism hotspots ensuring there is a constant flow of money to properly maintain the masterpieces and further develop them.

Toronto is ripe for architectural revolution mixing highest quality building materials with an educated work force, will create high-quality, long-lasting truly Canadian designs.

I love trees so I would of course encourage creating designs that do not kill any trees but let them keep living within spaces and incentivize developers to not kill trees but build designs alongside them through various tax incentives. I will also make sure construction happens in a way that the pollution does not impact low wildlife and nature, so that we can build a beautiful Toronto without harming anyone.

I want to build a 5-star sports complex at the dormant Borden High School in Scarborough.

I also want to design the area between Lawrence Road and Ellesmere Ave on Markham Road as Little Gujarat - and create beautiful Indian, Arabian, Turkish inspired buildings/sidewalks/churches/temples.