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Assalamoalykoom W.W.

Dear Congregants and Community Members:

- IST has negotiated a tentative agreement with Metrolinx for the 4 Thorncliffe Park Drive property and the construction of an Islamic Centre at 20 Overlea Blvd for an overall compensation value of **\$49.5 Million dollars.**
- This is a once in a lifetime, unprecedented opportunity for the community.
- IST is being compensated for the 4 Thorncliffe Park Drive, plus Metrolinx is building a brand-new Islamic Centre.
 - ✓ IST is excited and hopeful for the future – having a larger community space dedicated to the needs of the community that includes a bigger space for the mosque, bigger and better prayer facility for sisters, a gym, banquet facilities, classrooms, proper facilities for burial rites, commercial space to generate revenue.
- **The IST was already planning to move into the bigger space (20 Overlea Blvd.) well before Metrolinx came into the picture with their plans for the Ontario Line.**
 - ✓ Jumma prayers have reached up to 4,000 people, and Eid prayers have reached up to 8,000 people, with many having to pray outside in the parking lot. 20 Overlea Blvd. will have ample space for both women and men and can accommodate 4,000 worshippers at one time.
 - ✓ The Madrassa's waiting list is very long, and many children are waiting or do not have access to the integral Islamic education their parents want for them.
 - ✓ New space (20 Overlea Blvd.) will be able to accommodate youth activities, basketball courts, bigger and better prayer facility for women (2nd floor Mezzanine), after school programs, senior drop-in centre, and many more other new programs for boys and girls.
 - ✓ New space will help local businesses and organizations stay in the community; the facility includes space (24,000 sq. ft.) for 19 other local businesses/ organizations in the community whose properties are impacted by Ontario Line plans.
- The move does not take place until/unless Metrolinx delivers the new Islamic Centre, fully zoned, fully operational. The congregants will always have a place to pray – there will be no disruption in the prayers.
- The expropriation would have happened “with us or without us.” Collaborating with Metrolinx was beneficial to IST, we were able to negotiate a once in a lifetime opportunity for the community.
- The imams were consulted throughout for their input.

Thank you, Jazakallah

Management
Islamic Society of Toronto

