



## STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

### Changing the Blevins Retrofit Capital Project to 30 Regent Street

<b>Date:</b>	November 19, 2007
<b>To:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>From:</b>	General Manager, Children's Services
<b>Wards:</b>	<b>Ward 28 Toronto Centre-Rosedale</b>
<b>Reference Number:</b>	

#### SUMMARY

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The purpose of this report is to change the Blevins Child Care Retrofit project (included in Children's Services' 2008 Recommended Capital Budget), located at 56 Blevins, to the Regent Park Child Care Centre Replacement project, located at 30 Regent Street. This project is intended to replace the Regent Park Child Care Centre, currently located at 600 Dundas Street West that will be displaced as a result of Phase 2 of the Regent Park Revitalization Initiative.

This report also seeks authority, subject to the approval of Children's Services' 2008 Capital Budget, to enter into a contract with Toronto Community Housing Corporation for the design and construction of the Regent Park Child Care Centre Replacement located at 30 Regent Street.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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The General Manager recommends that:

- 1) the Blevins Child Care Centre Retrofit Project, currently included in Children's Services' 2008 Recommended Capital Budget, with a total project cost of \$1.650 million be changed to the Regent Park Child Care Centre Replacement Project.
- 2) the General Manager of Children's Services be delegated authority to execute an agreement on behalf of the City with the Toronto Community Housing Corporation for the design and construction of a child care centre at 30 Regent Street

and such agreement be on terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Children's Services' 2008 Recommended Capital Budget and 2009 – 2012 Capital Plan includes total funding of \$1.650 million (2008 and 2009) for the Blevins Child Care Centre Retrofit project to accommodate infants and toddlers from the Regent Park Day Care Centre that will be demolished by March 2009 as a result of the Regent Park Revitalization Initiative. The Blevins Child Care Centre Retrofit project will be replaced by the Regent Park Child Care Centre Replacement project with no change in project cost.

The Chief Financial Officer and Deputy City manager has reviewed this report and concurs with the information provided.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

The Regent Park Revitalization Initiative was adopted by Toronto City Council July 22, 23, 24, 2003. The Revitalization Initiative will replace 2083 rent-geared-to-income (RGI) social housing units and includes the reintroduction of the grid of public streets in Regent Park and the creation of new parks and community spaces in order to reintegrate the neighbourhood with the surrounding urban fabric.

There are two main tools, approved by Toronto City Council, to guide the development of community and social infrastructure in Regent Park - the Community Facilities Strategy, approved September 28, 29, 30, 2005, and the Social Development Plan, approved October 22, 23, 2007.

Redevelopment of Regent Park will require the replacement of existing recreation facilities, two child care centres and space occupied by community agencies. A general approach to replacement and expansion of community infrastructure was outlined in the Community Facilities Strategy. The Social Development Plan provides a plan of action for managing social change in Regent Park over the course of redevelopment and focuses on building social cohesion, community services and facilities, and employment.

## **COMMENTS**

The Regent Park Child Care Centre located at 600 Dundas Street West is a municipally operated child care program that cares for 40 children from infancy to 30 months of age. The site is due to be demolished in the spring of 2009 as part of the Regent Park Revitalization Initiative. The Division has been working with TCHC to determine an appropriate replacement strategy. At the time of the development of the Capital Budget submission the strategy was to retrofit the Blevins Child Care Centre, another municipally operated child care centre in Regent Park, to accommodate the additional infants and toddlers. The plan called for the preschool children currently in the Blevins site to be moved into portable buildings while a new child care space was created in Nelson

Mandela, a nearby school.

This plan was revisited because the Regent Park Revitalization is likely to impact the future of the Blevins location as well and because the Toronto District School Board is currently undertaking a review of the schools in the Regent Park community. TCHC and the Children's Services Division have since determined that a site at 30 Regent Street would provide the best option for the replacement of the child care centre. In addition, TCHC intends to build the facility with additional space for two community agencies currently providing services in Regent Park. The new facility will be owned by the City and a future report will recommend that the land be transferred to the City.

The new facility is consistent with the Community Facilities Strategy and the Social Development Plan. This option exemplifies partnership and provides a unique opportunity to co-locate community programs in a "hub" serving the families and children in Regent Park.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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General Manager