

Executive Committee – Item 15.23

Considered by City Council on December 11, 12 and 13, 2007

EX15.23	AMENDED			
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Elimination of Blue Jay Ticket Purchases for Councillors

City Council Decision

City Council on December 11, 12 and 13, 2007, adopted the following motion:

1. City Council direct the City Clerk, effective December 1, 2007, to advise Rogers Centre and the Toronto Blue Jays Baseball Club that the City of Toronto will not be purchasing the Blue Jays home game tickets for Suite 311 for the 2008 baseball season.
2. The issue of the 2008 funds saved be referred to the Budget Committee for consideration of how to use these savings for redeployment to recreation programs for at-risk youth in priority neighbourhoods.
3. The Rogers Centre be asked to donate Blue Jays tickets for Suite 311, or other options, to the City of Toronto for the year 2008.
4. The City Clerk be requested to report back to the Executive Committee on a process to ensure that the Suite is used for charitable purposes.
5. The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer be requested to report to the Executive Committee on whether a charitable receipt can be issued to the Rogers Centre for the value of the tickets.

(October 25, 2007) Member Motion from by Councillor Heaps, seconded by Councillor Stintz

Committee Recommendation

The Executive Committee recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Clerk, effective December 1, 2007, to advise Rogers Centre and Toronto Blue Jays Baseball Club that the City of Toronto will not be purchasing the Blue Jays home game tickets for Suite 311 for the 2008 baseball season.

Summary

The current arrangement between the City of Toronto and Rogers Centre/Toronto Blue Jays Baseball Club originates from the construction of the Sky Dome (Rogers Centre), when the City of Toronto contracted with the Stadium Corporation of Ontario Limited for the lease of Suite 311 for \$1 for the term of the lease, and agreed to purchase 16 season tickets for all home games of the Toronto Blue Jays. In 2007 the cost to the City of Toronto was: Blue Jays season tickets \$86,028.50 Hostess \$ 9,300.00 Total: \$95,328.50 Under the current arrangement, the City pays for an entire season of box-seat tickets for every home game and then assigns them to individual Councillor offices, through a lottery system.

Background Information

(October 25, 2007) Member Motion from Councillor Heaps, seconded by Councillor Stintz (EX.Main)

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/ex/comm/communicationfile-4644.pdf>

Speaker

Councillor Adrian Heaps, Ward 35, Scarborough Southwest