

Donation from United Way Toronto to Renovate Gymnasium at the new Rexdale Community Hub

Date:	May 25, 2012
To:	Budget Committee
From:	Executive Director, Social Development, Finance & Administration
Wards:	Ward 1 – North Etobicoke
Reference Number:	AFS # 15798

SUMMARY

This report seeks authority for the Social Development, Finance and Administration to accept a donation from United Way Toronto in the amount of \$250,000 and to spend these funds to renovate the gymnasium in the new Rexdale Community Hub at 21 Panorama Court to enhance sporting activities for local children and youth. The gymnasium renovations will be completed in 2012.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends that City Council:

1. Accept the donation from United Way Toronto in the amount of up to \$250,000 gross, \$0 net, to renovate the gymnasium in the new Rexdale Community Hub at 21 Panorama Court to enhance sporting activities for local children and youth.
2. Amend the 2012 Approved Capital Budget for Facilities Management and Real Estate to increase the Rexdale Community Hub project for \$250,000 gross, with funding provided from a third party contributor, for a \$0 net impact, to renovate the gymnasium.
3. Delegate authority to the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to negotiate and execute an agreement with United Way Toronto to receive this donation, all in a form and content satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funds from the donation will be transferred and included as an amendment to the 2012 Approved Capital Budget for Facilities Management and Real Estate to increase the Rexdale Community Hub project (CCA850-06) by \$250,000 for the renovation of the gymnasium. There is no net impact to the City from the receipt of this donation.

According to the amendment to the “Policy on Donations to the City for Community Benefits,” City Council approval is required to accept donations from any individual or organization whose cumulative value over the course of the fiscal year exceeds \$50,000. The total value of the United Way Toronto donation in 2012 is \$250,000.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of August 5 and 6, 2009, City Council authorized the purchase of the former Father Henry Carr Catholic School site at 21 Panorama Court to become the Rexdale Community Hub and tenancies with ten community agencies to provide needed community services and programs from the hub.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2009.CC38.9>

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In June 2007, the City of Toronto and United Way Toronto have been working with ten community-based organizations, lead by Albion Neighbourhood Services and Rexdale Community Health Centre, to develop the business case and secure funding to create an effective multiservice hub in North Etobicoke based on identified community needs. The vacant former Father Henry Carr Catholic School was determined to be the most cost effective, available opportunity.

The City capital contribution of \$4.79M, leveraged an additional \$8.9M in external funding to transform the old school into a renovated, improved community facility to house a wide range community and health services for North Etobicoke residents. Funding partners include United Way Toronto (\$2.4M), the Provincial and Federal Governments through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund (\$5.46M), the Ontario Trillium Foundation (\$0.56M), Legal Aid Ontario (\$0.20M) and Citizenship Immigration Canada (\$0.25M). This combined investment funded the state of good repair and other critical capital needs to transfer a 1970s school into an updated, customized facility including administrative, program and community space in a 'one-stop shop'.

Now that this major capital project is now completed and the renovated facility is open to the public, Social Development, Finance and Administration Division and United Way Toronto have secured an additional donation to upgrade the gymnasium, which was not included in the primary capital project.

COMMENTS

At 77,000 square feet, over two floors, the Rexdale Community Hub is the largest and most comprehensive community hub operating in the city. Opening its doors to residents in March 2012, the hub has become a flagship facility in one of Toronto's most under-served suburban neighbourhoods. As a one-stop shop, ten health and social service partners deliver integrated services under one roof, including:

- Family resource programs such as parenting, playgroups, parent relief/child-minding, and parent drop-in;
- Group programs for children and youth including recreation, social, educational, and creative arts programs;
- Primary care (e.g., physician, nurses, chiropody, physiotherapy, dental), and health promotion (e.g., diabetes education), congregate dining and healthy cooking;
- Settlement services and programming focused on newcomers, such as information/referral, system navigation, assistance with forms completion, citizenship classes, language instruction, seniors programs;
- Employment and entrepreneurship skills development;
- Resident leadership, civic engagement, public legal education;
- Legal services including landlord and tenant, income maintenance, worker's compensation, employment insurance, criminal injuries compensation, system navigation and referrals;
- Housing support such as eviction prevention;
- Arts, music and culture programs; and
- Multi-purpose space designated for use by small and emerging resident groups – meeting, program and event space and short-term administrative space.

The renovated gymnasium, enabled by this donation, will fully complete the new community hub, allowing children, youth and families with a safe, appropriate space to pursue their sport and leisure needs.

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SIGNATURE

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