
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM19.3	ACTION			Ward:All
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New Children and Youth Permit Fees for Sports Fields - by Councillor Sarah Doucette, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Sarah Doucette, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry, and Recreation to report to the April 10, 2012 City Council meeting with a process for offering relief to those having financial difficulty complying with the new fee structure for sports fields' permits.
2. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry, and Recreation to work with individual permit holders to establish flexible payment plans for the 2012 fees to provide them with the opportunity to continue their regular season and to raise the necessary funds to pay their 2012 fees.
3. City Council direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry, and Recreation to develop a protocol for notifying groups in advance of fee changes in the future.

Summary

Without sufficient notice, the 2012 Budget has imposed new hourly fees on many uses of our sports fields across the City including, but not limited to, activities such as baseball, soccer, cricket, and ball hockey. Where once fees were only charged on games for players 18 years or older, now all children and youth games will be subject to these fees.

We understand that there needs to be a fee structure, as there is with the Toronto District School Board for example, however, a standard, across-the-board application of this new policy may hinder many children and teenagers from participating in recreational activities that, until now, have played a large part in their development.

(Submitted to City Council on March 5 and 6, 2012 as MM19.3)

