

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM8.14	ACTION			Ward: All
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**Institutionalizing Resilience and Acting Now for Our Children's Future -
by Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, seconded by Councillor James
Pasternak**

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, seconded by Councillor James Pasternak, recommends that:

1. City Council commit to “Institutionalize resilience into the City’s decision-making and take leadership on resilience” and that the City Manager “embed resilience as a practice across the City and its partners” as outlined in Action C4.1 (pages 143-144 of the Resilience Strategy) as a first step in implementation of the Resilience Strategy.
2. City Council request the City Manager to report back to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee in September 2019 on a plan of action to further publicize and promote the Resilience Strategy.
3. City Council request the City Manager extend an invitation for the Resilience Exhibit, curated by Assistant Professor Fadi Masoud and exhibited at the University of Toronto John H. Daniels School of Architecture, Landscape and Design, to be exhibited in the rotunda or public viewing area at City Hall, the Civic Centres and Metro Hall to further profile the City of Toronto’s Resilience Strategy.
4. City Council request the City Manager to report back to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee by the end of the third quarter of 2019 on how staff will:
 - a. apply the lens of resilience to budget notes, infrastructure and development services notes, community and social services notes, and relevant new initiatives brought forward; and
 - b. track, and report to City Council on, the implementation of the recommendations in the Resilience Strategy.

Summary

On June 4, 2019, the City of Toronto's Resiliency Office released its first Resilience Strategy in preparation for the threats of climate change facing the City.

https://www.toronto.ca/ext/digital_comm/pdfs/resilience-office/toronto-resilience-strategy.pdf

Toronto is the second Canadian city and the 62nd city internationally to join the 100 Resilient Cities Initiative. Toronto's Resilience Strategy provides a framework, unique to and for Toronto, with guidelines, goals, and targets in three key focus areas: A - People and Neighbourhoods, B - Infrastructure, and C - Leading a Resilient City. The Strategy will be integrated with the existing Environment and Energy Division's TransformTO carbon emission reduction initiative, and the Strategy will embed "long-term climate and sustainability practices into how we do things and that will allow us to adapt to an uncertain, changing climate" as population, temperature, and floodwaters continue to surge.

The Strategy outlines the imperative to interweave equity and diversity into municipal governance in the movement for climate resilience, as well as highlights a relevant section which calls on the City to "Institutionalize resilience into the City's decision-making and take leadership on resilience" (Goal C4). The institutionalization of resilience is important for City Council to adopt and commit to in order to ensure that this vision and strategy will effectively safeguard and strengthen our City against the threat of climate change. As civil servants and changemakers working on City Council, we have an obligation and an accountability to collectively prepare our City for what is to come.

We call upon Council to apply a positive and constructive lens of sustainability and climate resilience to City documents. We are seeking to introduce a "resiliency strategy section" to City documents (budget notes, reports, proposals, motions, etc.) which will spur their authors to consider the alignment of their action with the action points of our Resilience Strategy. This will ensure that its focus areas and targets are being encompassed in all initiatives of all divisions by all staff, and will be the most effective way of streamlining resilience in Toronto, starting from the ground up.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM8.14

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-134464.pdf>)