

**City Council****Motion without Notice**

MM8.46	ACTION			Ward: All
--------	--------	--	--	-----------

**Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds from the Development at 333 Bloor Street East to Fund the Production and Installation of a Heritage Plaque at or near Maple Leaf Gardens to Commemorate Toronto's Basketball History - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll**

*\* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

*\* This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the approved 2019 Operating Budget for Heritage Toronto on a one-time basis by \$7,500.00 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 community benefits obtained from the development at 333 Bloor Street East, 1 Mount Pleasant Road and 575-577 Jarvis Street (Source Account XR3026-3700137), for the production and installation of a heritage plaque at or near the Maple Leaf Gardens property at 50 Carlton Street to commemorate the history of basketball in Toronto (Cost Centre HG 0001).

**Summary**

This Motion seeks authorization to release \$7,500 in Section 37 funds to Heritage Toronto for a heritage plaque commemorating the history of basketball in Toronto, to be installed at or near the Maple Leaf Gardens property at 50 Carlton Street.

On November 1, 1946 at Maple Leaf Gardens, the first game of the Basketball Association of America was held between the Toronto Huskies and the New York Knickerbockers (the Knicks) in front of a crowd of 7,000 people. The Basketball Association of America was a new league which was designed to take advantage of ice hockey arenas that often sat empty between matches.

The Toronto Huskies twice overcame large New York leads to pull ahead within the final four minutes. However, baskets in the dying moments of the match gave New York a 68-66 victory.

The Toronto Huskies were short lived — the team finished last in the Eastern Conference and folded at the end of the first Basketball Association of America season. The Basketball Association of America merged with the National Basketball League in 1949 to form the

modern National Basketball Association.

73 years after the Toronto Huskies played, the Toronto Raptors have made history by becoming the 2019 National Basketball Association champions and the first in what will hopefully be many more National Basketball Association championships for the City. It is therefore, appropriate that the City recognize the historic role that Maple Leaf Gardens played in the formation of the modern National Basketball Association.

The City of Toronto has secured funds under Section 37 of the Planning Act with the owners of the development at 333 Bloor Street East, 1 Mount Pleasant Road and 575-577 Jarvis Street, authorized by site-specific Zoning By-law 991-2001(OMB). The By-law and Section 37 Agreement with the landowner provide that the funds shall be used to achieve heritage objectives in the area. Sufficient funds remain available in the Planning Act Reserve Account for the production and installation of the heritage plaque at this location. The use of these funds for this purpose complies with the By-law and Section 37 Agreement.

There are existing heritage plaques at Maple Leaf Gardens. Heritage Toronto staff have not yet consulted with the owner of Maple Leaf Gardens, Ryerson University, on a location for the new plaque. This work will be done following Council approval.

As Heritage Toronto is a directly funded City agency and not considered an "outside party", no undertaking is required to be signed by Heritage Toronto governing the use of the funds and financial reporting.

This Motion is urgent because Toronto is a basketball City now.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM8.46