

NOTICE OF MOTION

Roundhouse Rail Museum

Moved by: Councillor Vaughan

Seconded by: Councillor Rae

SUMMARY:

The John Street Roundhouse is an inappropriate location for a big box furniture retailer; the site is nestled among the City's top tourist attractions, including the CN Tower, the Rogers Centre and the waterfront.

This is a spectacular heritage building with amazing potential to add to Toronto's growing list of museums. Residents of the City support this historical asset becoming a train museum. In addition to drawing local and international visitors, a museum would serve to recognize an important time in the history of the country and this City. The site could be a repository for memorabilia and stories about the Transcontinental Railway which linked our country. Among these are countless stories of immigrants who, after arriving by ship, took the train to settle all across Canada. A museum would both illustrate and educate Torontonians about their history.

Heritage is an integral part of a cultural city. Toronto must recognize the importance of our heritage and history. We must act to stop the pattern of neglect towards heritage properties, such as the recent tragic example of Walnut Hall on Shuter Street. These buildings, which are disappearing, are the physical manifestation of our past and our stories and should be celebrated.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the City of Toronto and State stay any further negotiation or completion of agreements until October 2007.
2. That staff from the Economic Development, Culture and Tourism and Facilities and Real Estate Divisions review the Steam Whistle proposal and business plan for the renovation of the remaining 18 bays of the Roundhouse, as well as the development of a Rail Museum and other associated activities, and report back to the Government Management Committee in September 2007.

July 16, 2007

According to Chapter 27, Council Procedures:

Fiscal Impact Statement provided	
Should have Fiscal Impact Statement prior to debate Requires two-thirds to waive requirement if Council wishes to debate	*
Should be referred to Government Management Committee Requires two-thirds vote to consider at this meeting	(√)
Motion Recommendations are Urgent	

* Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to advise.