TORONTO Member Motion

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM27.14	ACTION			Ward:43

Authority to Accept Donation to Support Community Development Activities in the Danzig Community - by Councillor Michael Thompson, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie

**** Notice of this Motion has not been given. A two-thirds vote is required to waive notice.***
**** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.***
**** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.***

Recommendations

Councillor Michael Thompson, second by Councillor Paul Ainslie recommend that:

1. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to accept the donation from Mr. Akanimo Udofia in the amount of up to $150,000 in instalments of $50,000 per year over three years in 2012, 2013, and 2014 to support community development efforts in the Danzig community.

2. City Council amend the 2012 Council Approved Operating Budget for Social Development, Finance and Administration by increasing revenues and expenses by $50,000 gross, $0 net funded from the donation from Mr. Udofia to support community development efforts in the Danzig community.

3. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to negotiate and execute an agreement with Mr. Udofia to receive this donation, all in a form and content satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

4. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to negotiate and execute an agreement with the East Scarborough Boys and Girls Fund to receive and administer this donation for community development efforts in the Danzig community, all in a form and content satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Summary

On July 16, 2012, residents within the Danzig Street community were heavily impacted by a violent incident that left 25 people injured, 2 of whom later died from their injuries. When Mr. Akanimo Udofia, Group Managing Director/CEO of Desicon Group, the largest indigenous engineering company in West Africa, heard of the shootings, he decided to come forward to make a personal donation to the City of Toronto to support community development efforts in Danzig.

In the aftermath of the violence, staff from Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA) Division and Toronto Community Housing (TCHC) have been working with Danzig residents to advance initiatives that will strengthen their community. In the process, the Danzig Resident Committee identified a need to (1) create a safe space for children in the community; (2) assist children and youth reach academic excellence; and (3) support adult residents achieve their employment and career goals. Mr. Udofia's generous donation will provide the needed funding for residents to accomplish their vision.

Over the course of three years, Mr. Udofia will donate $150,000 to the City to support a variety of resident-developed initiatives within the Danzig community. Specifically, his donation will support community-led educational programming and events, annual scholarships, resident training, employment opportunities for residents to coordinate and run activities, and computers and equipment for a local space TCHC renovated for Danzig resident activities. The East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club, a local organization supporting Danzig residents, has agreed to administer the donated funds and to support the approved resident-developed activities. SDFA will monitor the overall progress to ensure deliverables are met within the three-year donation timeframe.

The receipt and disbursement of this donation complies with the “Policy on Donations to the City for Community Benefits." SDFA will receive Mr. Udofia's donation on behalf of the City of Toronto in instalments of $50,000 each over three years, starting in 2012, and will disburse the funds to East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club in three annual instalments of $50,000 starting this fiscal year. The 2013 and 2014 disbursements will be included in the 2013 and 2014 operating budget processes.

Timely consideration of the recommendations with this Motion will enable City staff and the community to utilize the funds being made available beginning in the 2012 fiscal year.

(Submitted to City Council on October 30 and 31, 2012 as MM27.14)