

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM36.15	ACTION			Ward:All
---------	--------	--	--	----------

Requesting the Province to create a program to facilitate the acceptance of unwanted babies - by Councillor Michelle Berardinetti, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow

** 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 Michelle Berardinetti, seconded by Councillor Josh Matlow, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager to work with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, in conjunction with the City's Public Health Department, to create a program within a public hospital facility in Toronto which would facilitate the acceptance of unwanted babies with anonymity for the parents and where the child is immediately taken into the care of the appropriate child welfare agency. The program would be based upon the "Angel Cradles" program that has recently been initiated in a public hospital in the City of Edmonton, Alberta.

Summary

There is a clear need for a safe haven drop off facility for unwanted babies within the City of Toronto. In the Cities of Edmonton and Vancouver, hospital facilities have been designated to receive unwanted babies anonymously. In establishing such a facility within the City of Toronto, there would be the creation of a safe, anonymous and effective alternative for mothers who have delivered a child but who are unable or unwilling to care for the baby.

(Submitted to City Council on June 11 and 12, 2013 as Member Motion MM36.15)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM36.15