

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM45.30	ACTION			Ward:All
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Supporting the "Count Me In" Initiative - by Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Michelle Berardinetti

** 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 James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Michelle Berardinetti, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to report back to City Council, through the Economic Development Committee, on a strategy such that:
 - a. the City of Toronto can support and promote the Count Me In event on April 29, 2014;
 - b. working with the City of Toronto Partnership Office, an assessment can be undertaken on the degree to which the events can be supported by corporate partners in the Greater Toronto Area; and
 - c. the Toronto District School Board is consulted to explore how the School Board can support the event and encourage participation by students.

Summary

“Count Me In Toronto” is the world's largest youth-run empowerment event promoting volunteerism. Count Me In impacts students in an intimate atmosphere with engaging speakers and entertainers, uniting to share powerful messages inspiring volunteer action. Designed and run entirely by students, the unique single-day event motivates and empowers today's youth to become leaders in their local communities. Count Me In helps connect students with community service opportunities that match their interests and lifestyle. Their innovative field-trip style events spark community involvement, local volunteer action, student leadership and positive social change.

In 2014, Count Me In will be moving their annual provincial Ontario event to the City of Toronto, and will be hosting the one-day field trip at The Sony Centre on April 29, 2014.

The event will unite grade 7-12 students and educators from across Toronto and around Ontario for a day promoting community engagement, active citizenship and local volunteerism.

Count Me In was founded by Toronto teen, Shane Feldman.

In 2013, Shane was named one of Canada's Top 20 Under 20 by the Orders Of Canada panel. Today, Count Me In is recognized as a registered Canadian charity, and the largest youth-run movement in Canada, promoting volunteerism.

This Motion is urgent as the window for the City of Toronto to be a major partner on the "Count Me In" movement is very narrow. The event is scheduled for April 29, 2013 and it is vital that City staff start working on this worthy cause immediately.

(Submitted to City Council as MM45.30)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM45.30