

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM7.7	ACTION			Ward:20
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Authorization to Release Section 45 Funds from 426-444 Adelaide Street West for an aquaponics project at the Scadding Court Community Centre - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão

** 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 Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the Association of Community Centre's approved 2015 Operating Budget for the Scadding Court Community Centre by \$25,000.00 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 45 community benefits related to the development at 426-444 Adelaide Street West (source account: XR3028-4500140) to provide one-time funding for capital improvements in the form of an aquaponics project at the Scadding Court Community Centre.

Summary

Authority is being sought to increase the Association of Community Centres' 2015 Approved Operating Budget for the Scadding Court Community Centre by \$25,000 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by secured Section 45 community benefits to provide one-time funding for capital improvements in the form of an aquaponics project at the Centre.

Section 45 funds in the amount of \$543,604.50 including accrued interest have been secured and received by the City in the development at 426-444 Adelaide Street West for the purposes of improvements to parks, public realm, or community facilities in Ward 20.

The Scadding Court Community Centre is currently in the process of implementing an emerging method of sustainable urban agriculture, aquaponics, to improve food security, provide valuable education and training, and contribute to socio-economic development within the community. Aquaponics is a closed-loop system in which plants and fish are grown together in a mutually beneficial relationship. The system has many benefits: compared to soil-based agriculture, it has significantly lower water usage rates, it provides greater control over conditions, and it is by nature free of any harmful products like pesticides.

The aquaponics project will be showcased in the main court, providing a source of interest and

education readily accessible to the public, with highly visible greenery and fish tanks. The produce will include tilapia fish for food, koi fish to be sold as pets, and a variety of herbs and other greens. The fish and plants will be available for purchase by the community at affordable rates, by restaurants as specialty items, and will also be used by programs within the Scadding Court Community Centre. The Centre will also be working with the Fort York Food Bank to provide opportunities for food bank users to have access to fresh produce and a good source of protein. Job and training opportunities will be created through the process, with emphasis on supporting marginalized community members.

The capital improvements will be an exciting addition to help enable the Scadding Court Community Centre's long-term programming for Food Access and Security, and for Community and Social Development, notably: Gone Fishin', Market 707, and the Urban Agriculture Program.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM7.7