Authorization to Release Section 45(9) Funds from 200 Dundas Street East to Food Forward Advocacy Alliance for the Creation of a Community Garden in Allan Gardens - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Pam McConnell

* 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 Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Pam McConnell, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the 2016 Operating Budget for Non-Program subsequent to the adoption of this budget by $20,000.00 gross, $0 net, fully funded by Section 45 funds obtained in the development at 200 Dundas Street East (source account: 220096), for the purpose of providing one time capital funding to the Food Forward Advocacy Alliance for the creation of a community garden in Allan Gardens (cost centre: NP2161).

2. City Council direct that the funds be forwarded to the Food Forward Advocacy Alliance upon the signing of an Undertaking by the Food Forward Advocacy Alliance governing the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements.

Summary
Since its inception in 2010, the Food Forward Advocacy Alliance has been a leader on educating and advocating for healthy food, and inclusive, diverse, ethical, local and resilient community building through food and food policy. The Alliance has supported local businesses and agencies across the City in creating new urban agriculture, community kitchens and food hub projects.

Food Forward has been working with Building Roots, Friends of Allan Gardens, Native Women’s Resource Centre, Ryerson University and may other community partners to develop an urban agriculture showcase in Allan Gardens for 2016. The project, which aligns with various park and neighborhood plans, and helps advance Council’s Grow TO Urban Agriculture Action Plan, will demonstrate the use of urban agriculture container gardens for food, medicinal, herbal and pollinator plants. The initiative meets existing City and neighbourhood heritage, design, food access, community building, research and public education objectives, and is supported by community stakeholders and City Staff in Parks,
Forestry, and Recreation.

Funds in the amount of $150,000 have been secured and received as a condition of approval of a minor variance (Section 45) application for a development at 200 Dundas Street East (Committee of Adjustment file A0836/14TEY) for a number of purposes including $20,000 for Food Forward to create a new community/medicine garden at Allan Gardens.

This Motion seeks Council authority to release $20,000 in Section 45(9) funds from the development at 200 Dundas Street East to the Food Forward Advocacy Alliance to provide one-time capital funding for the purpose of creating a community garden within Allan Gardens.

Food Forward Advocacy Alliance will sign an Undertaking governing the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements prior to the funds being released from the City.

**Background Information (City Council)**
Member Motion MM12.13