

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM18.8	ACTION			Ward:12
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**Somali Immigrant Aid Organization - Renewal of Below Market Rent Lease Agreement at 1652 Keele Street - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy**

*\* Notice of this Motion has been given.*

*\* This Motion is subject to referral to the Government Management Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to report to the Government Management Committee by June 2016 with the results of the eligibility review for the Somali Immigrant Aid Organization's application to renew their below market rent lease agreement at 1652 Keele Street.
2. City Council allow the Somali Immigrant Aid Organization to continue to occupy the City-owned space they have held at 1652 Keele Street at the current monthly rent, plus all taxes and operating costs, pending the completion of the eligibility review and final Council decision regarding the requested renewal of their below market rent lease agreement.

**Summary**

The Somali Immigrant Aid Organization (SIAO) is a non-profit organization committed to addressing the integration, education, health, housing, cultural, and economic development needs of Somali Canadians and other immigrants in Canada through a wide range of programs and services.

For 30 years, the Somali Immigrant Aid Organization has positively contributed to the well-being of the Somali community, as well as the broader immigrant population in Toronto, by offering programs to assist with integration into Canadian life, while at the same time respecting and celebrating their native culture. The Somali Immigrant Aid Organization's Language Instructions for Newcomers Program, family support programs, youth opportunities program and employment program are just a few of the services offered by the Somali Immigrant Aid Organization which have supported Canadians, new and old.

For over 10 years, the Somali Immigrant Aid Organization has occupied space at the City-owned facility at 1652 Keele Street, paying below market rent and operating costs. While the

Somali Immigrant Aid Organization's need for this space for programming remains, they failed to submit the necessary documentation to the City for its renewal and as a result, the lease expired on December 31, 2015. All the necessary paperwork and documentation have since been provided to the City, with the Social Development, Finance and Administration division currently undertaking an eligibility review as required under the Below Market Rent Policy.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM18.8