

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM20.57	ACTION			Ward:All
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Supporting the Growth of Toronto's Fashion Sector - by Councillor Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson

** 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 Mary Fragedakis, seconded by Councillor Michael Thompson, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to consult with the fashion sector about the impact that the cancellation of the Toronto Fashion Week has on the industry's growth and call a meeting to discuss next steps to support the growth of the industry.
2. City Council request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to report back in the first quarter of 2017, through the Economic Development Committee, on Toronto's Fashion Sector, and include findings from the consultation with the sector and the best practices used by other governments for supporting their local fashion sectors.

Summary

Fashion is an important industry in Toronto and the City partnered with the industry to create Toronto Fashion Week in 1992 to support the growth of our many talented designers. It grew into becoming the second largest fashion week in North America only behind New York City's event. On July 7, 2016 IMG (owner of the event since 2012) announced it was cancelling Toronto Fashion Week.

City staff work with companies and sector partners to develop, support and promote initiatives to grow the fashion sector. As an example, the City created and provides ongoing support to the Toronto Fashion Incubator (TFI), the first fashion incubator in the world, now celebrating its 29th year.

Going forward the City of Toronto can work with the industry in finding an appropriate model that supports the continued growth of this important sector of Toronto's economy.

Last week, Toronto Fashion Week was cancelled without any warning. The next Toronto Fashion week would have been in October so if reviving that is a viable and desirable option a

vote on the matter at the October Council meeting would be too late.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM20.57