

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

MM24.16	ACTION			Ward:All
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**Supporting the Harriet Tubman Games - by Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside**

*\* 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 James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Jon Burnside, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to report to Council, through the Executive Committee, by March 28, 2017 on a plan to support the Harriet Tubman Games, such report should include, but not be limited to a determination of what City of Toronto partnership opportunities are available, including facility space, logistical support and grants, as well as outline a strategy to make the Esther Shiner Stadium the permanent home of the Games.

**Summary**

The Harriet Tubman Games are an outdoor Track and Field community event sanctioned by Athletics Ontario that promotes wellness, fitness, community spirit, and family fun with races, entertainment, and local vendors. The event is organized by the Harriet Tubman Community Organization and takes place in the City of Toronto's Esther Shiner Stadium facility.

In 1971, looking to increase the opportunities for Black athletes to qualify and compete in the Olympic Games, a group of Black community members created the first annual Black Track Meet. Held in Toronto, the competition has since given athletes such as Ben Johnson and Donovan Bailey the chance to participate in the Olympics. Eventually, the Black Track Meet evolved into the Harriet Tubman Games, a general community Track and Field event for all ages, overseen since 1986 by the Harriet Tubman Community Organization. In 2017, the games will also be part of the Canada 150 celebrations.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM24.16