

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM28.27	ACTION			Ward:All
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Protection Measures for Potential Heritage Buildings - by Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Planning and Growth Management Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to report back on the feasibility and approximate cost of a heritage listing program, including an initial sweep of properties, list management, and ongoing operational costs.

Summary

As the City is in the midst of a phase of rapid development and growth, we need to be vigilant in protecting our heritage elements. Heritage architecture tells the story of Toronto, providing a visible reminder of our social history. Heritage buildings signify who we are and where we came from as a City. The diverse preserved architecture adds interest and beauty to our surroundings.

In recent years, there have been a number of instances where undesignated buildings have been demolished prior to receiving a determination of heritage status. This happens, in part, because the process of designating a building as "heritage" is long and complex. The City of Toronto needs to do a better job of preventing the irreversible loss of more heritage properties.

One way this may be accomplished is for the City to do a sweep of all potential heritage properties, listing them until such time as they can be properly evaluated. Resident groups in neighbourhoods across the City could support the process with nominations and initial research. This would effectively create a primary tier of heritage protection. Listed buildings would not be eligible for a demolition permit until Heritage Preservation staff have had an opportunity to review the heritage status and sign off.

The intent of this Motion is to determine the feasibility of such a project and to define the approximate cost of implementation.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion 28.27