

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM31.17	ACTION			Ward:27
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Transitional Housing Opportunity at 9 Huntley Street for low- income people with HIV/AIDS - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll

** 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 Shelley Carroll, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Chief Corporate Officer and the Director, Affordable Housing Office, in consultation with Legal Services, Corporate Finance and Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, to conduct the due diligence necessary to support the City to purchase 9 Huntley Street at a below-market rate and enter into a lease with Fife House to operate the property as transitional housing.
2. City Council request the Director, Affordable Housing, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, and the Chief Corporate Officer, in consultation with Legal Services and Corporate Finance, to report to the Executive Committee meeting on October 24, 2017 on a proposed course of action, outlining federal, provincial and City funding sources to support the purchase, renovation and operation of 9 Huntley Street as transitional housing, including outlining the necessary agreements and reporting requirements

Summary

Since 1988, Casey House has operated the first free-standing hospice for people with HIV/AIDS in Canada at 9 Huntley Street. It was founded by a group of volunteers, including journalist June Callwood who was a strong activist and advocate across numerous causes, from poverty and illness including HIV/AIDS, to racism, homophobia, censorship, and women and children in crisis. Casey House is named after her son Casey Frayne, who was killed in 1982 at the age of 20 by an impaired driver while riding his motorcycle to university.

In August 2017, Casey House is moving into a new expanded facility and 9 Huntley Street will be surplus to its needs. A respected HIV/AIDS specialty hospital with an innovative spirit, Casey House cares for people living with HIV who also face such complex challenges as poverty, mental health, substance use, and marginalization. The new facility will allow Casey House to respond to the complex and evolving needs of a large and growing population who

are HIV positive by bringing specialized services together and introducing a day health program.

Given the need to provide much needed transitional housing for low-income residents with HIV/AIDS, the City has a strong interest with Fife House in continuing the use of 9 Huntley Street to serve vulnerable residents many of whom reside in the City's shelter system. The current situation provides a unique opportunity for the City to purchase the property at a below market value and secure Fife House as an operator of the transitional housing in providing 20 transitional homes for people living with HIV/AIDS, who would be referred from Seaton House as part of the George Street Revitalization

There is also an opportunity to support the purchase of the property through partial funding from available federal/provincial supportive and affordable housing programs. City Planning has confirmed availability of Section 37 funds, secured as part of community benefits in Ward 27, to complement other major capital donations to support Fife House in completing the required renovations.

Fife House has been providing quality affordable housing and supports for people living with HIV/AIDS for more than 30 years and is recognized as a North American leader in its delivery of services, which are focused on enhancing quality of life, building on individual strengths and promoting independence - recognizing that access to secure and affordable housing is a key determinant for the health and well-being of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Today Fife House provides 80 percent of the supportive housing and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS in Toronto. The Fife House model of service delivery now spans the full spectrum of housing options including, but not limited to, residential programs, rent subsidy programs, homeless outreach, transitional housing, and support for those aging with HIV.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM31.17