

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM38.10	ACTION			Ward:27
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230 Sherbourne Street - Potential Property Acquisition for Affordable Housing Purposes - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Janet Davis

** 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 Janet Davis, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Director, Affordable Housing Office to work with the Deputy City Manager, Internal Corporate Services and in consultation with CreateTO, to conduct the necessary due diligence for the potential acquisition or expropriation of the property at 230 Sherbourne Street for affordable and/or supportive housing purposes, and to report to the Affordable Housing Committee at its June 25, 2018 meeting on the results of the due diligence, including negotiations with the property owner, and the potential sources of funding to acquire the property.

Summary

The current crisis in the shelter system has been created by a lack of a wide range of affordable housing in Toronto. With almost 7,000 people sleeping in shelters, respite centres and drop-in centres each night, homelessness is on the rise and Toronto must concurrently build sufficient new shelter beds, deeply affordable housing, supportive, and transitional housing to accommodate this growth and to meet the 90 percent occupancy cap rate set out by City Council. Currently and for many years, occupancy levels regularly reach 97-100 percent, meaning those who need beds risk not being able to find them.

However, the stark reality facing those without adequate homes is a multi-year wait for supportive housing and 181,000 people on the waitlist for affordable housing. As emergency shelters continue to burst at the seams and the rate of homeless deaths rises, it is imperative that City Council takes immediate and swift action to build new affordable and supportive housing in the City.

The City is actively working to provide new shelter and housing opportunities for Toronto residents in need of affordable housing. A key to creating affordable housing is securing buildings and sites that can be acquired and developed for use as new affordable housing. The

property at 230 Sherbourne Street in Ward 27 is currently listed for sale and provides the opportunity to develop the site as affordable housing. Given the increasing need for affordable housing and the opportunity to acquire the property at 230 Sherbourne Street, this Motion recommends that City Council request City staff to investigate the feasibility of acquiring the property for affordable housing purposes and to report to the Affordable Housing Committee at its meeting on June 25, 2018.

With new investments from the Federal Government to affordable housing and ending homelessness, this is an opportune time for Toronto to utilize this funding opportunity to build desperately needed housing.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM38.10