

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM41.23	ACTION			Ward:43
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Creating a Sustainable and Vibrant Community Hub at the Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute - by Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Jim Hart

** Notice of this Motion has not been given. A two-thirds vote is required to waive notice.
* This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.
* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paul Ainslie, seconded by Councillor Jim Hart, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Deputy City Manager, Internal Corporate Services, Interim Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration to work with appropriate City Divisions and Agencies, Toronto Land Corporation and representatives of the Provincial government to identify opportunities for creating a sustainable and vibrant community hub at the Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute site that would meet the needs of the local community, and report back to Council in the first quarter of 2019.

Summary

In June 2016, the Toronto District School Board by resolution declared the Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute located at 200 Poplar Road in Scarborough, closed and transferred to the Toronto Lands Corporation for disposition. The Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute site offers 11.93 acres and is in walking distance to Kingston Road, a main arterial road in the area. The proposed easterly extension of the Crosstown LRT would travel along Kingston Road with a stop approximately 250 metres from the site at Lawrence Avenue East. Guildwood GO station, which is approximately 1.5 kilometres from the site, is slated for improved service through Metrolinx' GO Regional Express Rail program. Many residents live in Toronto Community Housing Corporation housing within walking distance of the school. Youth in these communities and throughout the area are significantly underserved in terms of space for sports and recreation activities.

In November 2017, the Toronto District School Board passed a motion authorizing the Toronto Lands Corporation that prior to issuing a request for offers to the open market, the Toronto Lands Corporation establish a Steering Committee with representatives from the Province,

Ministry of Education, City of Toronto and Toronto District School Board to develop an effective framework to guide the identification of local community service needs and potential partners that would contribute to the creation of a sustainable and vibrant community hub.

The Steering Committee conducted a needs assessment of the Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute community of West Hill, a Neighbourhood Improvement Area. West Hill has higher rates of unemployment, reliance on social assistance, hospitalizations and diabetes, and lower rates of post-secondary educational attainment, access to healthy food and walkability compared to other neighbourhoods in Toronto.

Through consultations and key informant interviews, the area directly surrounding the Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute site has especially high demand of the following services: food security; mental health and counseling; literacy programs for all ages, health services, recreation programs, before and after school programs, childcare and workforce development programs.

The City of Toronto has previously identified an interest in ensuring that school properties that represent significant community assets are retained for continued public access and community use. City Council has defined a fourfold interest in schools as "community assets". Schools may be important sites for:

- Child care and early learning
- Green space and recreation
- Community programming
- Responding to future growth

With the Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute being declared surplus, the City now has a window of opportunity to help achieve these goals. In order to be prepared for the opportunity to make a strategic acquisition, on May 14, 2018, the Executive Committee adopted a recommendation to set aside a portion of the Land Acquisition Reserve Fund through the creation of a capital budget and plan allocation to ensure that \$15 million remains available for future surplus school property acquisitions.

As well, a new City-Wide real estate model was approved by Council in May 2017, and on January 1, 2018, the new model was launched. This model takes a centralized and integrated approach to real estate management and portfolio planning to execute on the best real estate solutions for the City as a whole.

The Toronto Lands Corporation Request for Offer for Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute is to be issued to the open market in June 2018 and consideration of this motion is urgent in order to secure the City's interest in retaining the site for public access and community use. Leveraging the City's Land Acquisition Reserve Fund and new real estate model will help ensure the Sir Robert L. Borden Business and Technical Institute continues to meet community needs.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM41.23