

**City Council****Motion without Notice**

MM43.50	ACTION			Ward:17
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**Release Section 37 Funds from the Development at 90 Caledonia Park Road, to the Toronto District School Board towards the Digital Literacy Program at Carleton Village Junior and Senior Sports and Wellness Academy 315 Osler Street - by Councillor Cesar Palacio, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata**

*\* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

*\* This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Cesar Palacio, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the approved 2018 Operating Budget for one-time use by \$12,304.18 gross, \$0 net (cost centre: NP2161), fully funded by Section 37 community benefits obtained in the development at 90 Caledonia Road, (source account: XR3026-3700444), for the purpose of forwarding funds to the Toronto District School Board for the digital literacy program at Carleton Village Junior and Senior Sports and Wellness Academy.

**Summary**

Students today are expected to learn and apply skills that differ greatly from previous generations. These skills include communicating and collaborating using a variety of tools and platforms, mastering digital literacy, thinking critically and solving complex problems. Embracing technology and digital literacy is a key factor to encourage learning from infancy through adulthood.

Computers help children develop problem-solving skills, design skills, and most importantly help improve writing, reading, and other fundamental skills. Now more than ever, teachers use the internet to post assignments, lecture readings, and online quizzes to be more interactive with students to ensure that the educational components go beyond the classroom.

Youth who have limited access to computers can be placed at an unfair disadvantage and quickly fall behind others in today's rapidly growing technology era. In some instances, in order to use computers with Internet access, low-income children have to rely on public resources, such as libraries or afterschool programs. These sites are precious commodities and usually in far greater demand than supply. In today's environment computer literacy is a necessity, as most assignments are completed using computer software, which has made tasks

more efficient and faster to complete.

The Neighbourhood Improvement Areas are part of the City's "Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020, which works as part of a larger City strategy to build stronger neighbourhoods in Toronto that are currently falling below the Neighbourhood Equity Score - the objective is to provide an equitable set of social, economic and cultural opportunities for all residents, with the goal of advancing equitable outcomes across all neighbourhoods. According to the 2011 Neighbourhood Demographic Estimates, the Weston-Pelham Neighbourhood Improvement Areas has a 21 percent population living in low-income with an average household income of \$34,000-\$35,000.

Furthermore, it is worth noting that Mayor John Tory on behalf of Toronto City Council proclaimed May 31, 2018, as "Digital Literacy Day", in view of digital literacy being accepted as an essential skill for individual empowerment, participating in social and improved livelihood.

The Toronto District School Board has identified a need for funding for the digital literacy program at the Carleton Village Junior and Senior Sports and Wellness Academy (315 Osler Street). The Section 37 agreement specifies that one of the purposes of these funds is community improvements. Council approved Implementation Guidelines for Section 37 states that: "Cash contributions towards capital improvement are eligible S.37 community benefits.

The Toronto District School Board will sign an Undertaking governing the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements prior to the funds being released from the City.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM43.50