

**City Council**

<b>MM44.63</b>	<b>ACTION</b>			Ward:27
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**836-850 Yonge Street to the Bloor-Yorkville Business Improvement Area for the Bloor Street Revitalization Project - Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy**

*\* 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 Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Joe Cressy, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the approved 2018 Operating Budget for Non-Program by \$2,271,645.00 gross, \$0 net fully funded by Section 37 community benefits obtained in the development at 836-850 Yonge Street and 1-9A Yorkville Avenue (Source account XR3026-3700722), for the purpose of forwarding funds to the Bloor-Yorkville Business Improvement Area for capital improvements Bloor Street. (cost centre NP2161).
2. City Council direct that the \$2,271,645.00 be forwarded to the Bloor-Yorkville Business Improvement Area, subject to the Business Improvement Area signing an Undertaking governing the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements.

**Summary**

In 2010, working with the City of Toronto, the Bloor Street Business Improvement Area completed the transformation of Bloor Street between Avenue Road and Church Street. This \$21 million project included a widened boulevard of grey granite pavers, an underground silva cell system to provide the optimum growing environment for over 130 mature trees and over 50 in ground gardens with trees, plantings and decorative up lighting. The project is the largest Business Improvement Area funded project of its kind.

The project has been well received by the community, however the Business Improvement Area was disappointed with the lighting components. This provided an opportunity to seek out a creative solution with higher quality components, greater visual impact, and reduced ongoing maintenance requirements.

In the fall of 2016, the Bloor-Yorkville Business Improvement Area sent out an Request for Proposal to a select group of reputable, lighting design firms, to source who would be interested in working to make this section of Bloor Street more beautiful through the use of

light. The winning proposal was based on an inventive design which incorporated lighting with street furniture.

The benches are intended to resemble a campfire, something city dwellers cannot regularly engage with. Once a person sits on the bench, the lights within it, begin to dance like the light of a campfire. Colours can be easily programmed to match with various holiday times or can be rotated, much like the lighting seen on the CN tower and the Bloor Street viaduct. The benches will provide an engaging place to sit, a unique sense of place, and an enhancement to the character of Bloor Street.

In consultation with Transportation Services, it was deemed best to build a single bench, as a pilot project. This was installed in early March of 2018. To date the bench has been well received by the public. It is the intent of the Business Improvement Area to place a number of these interactive benches, along with similarly designed, but non-interactive benches throughout the Bloor St. transformation area.

Section 37 funds in the amount of \$4,511,687.87 have been secured from the development at 836-850 Yonge Street and 1-9A Yorkville Avenue. These funds were secured for capital improvements that will benefit the community in the vicinity of the project such as, but not limited to, non-profit licensed daycare facilities, community centres, recreation facilities, libraries, arts related community space, local streetscape improvements, and Yorkville Business Improvement Area capital projects. The funds remain uncommitted and are available for use.

Capital improvements to Bloor Street as a Yorkville Business Improvement Area capital project would comply with the Section 37 agreement and the Council approved Section 37 Guidelines.

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

Member Motion MM44.63