

City Council**Motion Without Notice**

MM44.93	ACTION			Ward:20
---------	--------	--	--	---------

15 Denison Avenue - Exploring Affordable Housing and Cultural Animation Opportunities - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão

** 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 Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão, recommends that:

1. City Council request that the Director, Real Estate Services, the Director, Affordable Housing Office, the Interim Chief Financial Officer, the Transition Lead of CreateTO and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to explore affordable housing and cultural animation opportunities for 15 Denison Avenue, as an independent and/or joint development opportunity and report back in second quarter of 2019 with a conceptual design and feasibility plan.

Summary

After four years of hard work, we have a new master plan for downtown Toronto: TOcore. It's a plan to build a more liveable and sustainable downtown for the next 25 years. Each of the components of TOcore – the Downtown Secondary Plan and the five Infrastructure Strategies – will help manage and guide growth and development, while ensuring that growth is accompanied by investment in all the necessary community services and facilities that support healthy neighbourhoods, households, and individuals.

As we work to implement the strategies detailed in the TOcore plan, including expanding community services and facilities, creating affordable housing, and more, our existing stock of City-owned property becomes increasingly important as our downtown neighbourhoods become more densely populated, and as land becomes more valuable.

At the same time, our City is facing an affordable housing crisis that continues to grow – with 181,000 people now on the waiting list, we must pursue every opportunity to invest in new affordable housing across our communities.

The Toronto Parking Authority operates a Green P parking lot at 15 Denison Avenue at Queen Street West and Augusta Avenue. Located just north of Queen Street West, this lot is one of the

last surface-level parking lots in the downtown. As we search for opportunities to build new units of affordable housing, cultural hubs and animation opportunities, and for additional city-building opportunities, we must take advantage of under-utilized spaces in our downtown and across the City in order to meet our varied and critical City-building objectives.

In order to ensure we properly review the potential for the site as a future affordable housing site, with replacement underground parking and potential additional City-building opportunities, City staff should undertake a study and report back in early 2019.

This Motion is urgent in order to allow work to commence during the Council break.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM44.93