

## Implementing the Regent Park Social Development Plan

**Date:** June 13, 2019

**To:** Economic and Community Development Committee

**From:** Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration

**Wards:** Ward 13

### SUMMARY

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The Revitalization of Regent Park in 2007 created a unique opportunity to transform Canada's largest social housing community to a mixed-housing community. A Social Development Plan was developed in addition to the Physical Development Plan to ensure social cohesion and social inclusion were prioritized. Ten years later in 2017, community partners recognized the need to update the original 75 recommendations of the Social Development Plan. The Refreshed Regent Park Social Development Plan document was developed through feedback received from consultations and workshops attended by residents, organizations, City divisions, and social service agencies held in 2017 and 2018.

In early 2019 community partners supported by the City of Toronto and Toronto Community Housing Corporation relaunched the Regent Park Social Development Plan Stakeholders Table. The Stakeholders Table is the primary partnership vehicle for the implementation of the Refreshed Regent Park Social Development Plan. The Stakeholders table began a process to recruit resident and community service partner leaders to identify specific actions for implementation based on the recommendations of the Refreshed Regent Park Social Development Plan. A number of community partners including the Regent Park Neighbourhood Association and The Regent Park Executive Directors Network have asked the City to support the resourcing of the Social Development Plan.

This report describes priority actions identified by local partners in Regent Park. The report will also identify the City resources required to support the ongoing coordination of the Social Development Plan through Phase 4 and 5 of the Regent Park Revitalization.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

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The Executive Director of Social Development Finance and Administration recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration, to include a request in the 2020 budget submission for \$0.085 million, 1 Full-

Time Equivalent Community Development Worker to project manage the implementation of the Regent Park Social Development Plan.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial impacts in 2019 from the recommendations in this report.

The financial impact from recommendation #1 will be considered as part of the 2020 budget process. It is estimated that the request, through the 2020 budget process, will be \$85,000 annually for 1.0 permanent Community Development Worker position to coordinate the implementation of the Regent Park Social Development Plan as detailed in Table 3 of this document.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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At its meeting on May 14th 2019 City Council approved the member motion directing the Executive Director of Social Development, Finance and Administration to work in collaboration with Toronto Community Housing and the Regent Park Executive Directors Network to establish costing and to consider the feasibility of extending the full-time Social Development Plan Coordinator position and contract for the duration of Phase 4 and 5 of the Regent Park Revitalization and to report back to the June 26, 2019 meeting of the Economic and Community Development Committee.

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-132795.pdf>)

At its meeting on September 17, 2007 the City Council's Executive Committee adopted the Regent Park Social Development Plan including the seventy-five recommendations that provided a plan of action for managing social change in Regent Park over the course of the redevelopment.

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-6992.pdf>)

## **COMMENTS**

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### **Social Development Plan and Stakeholders in Regent Park**

The Social Development Plan is the communities guide to ensuring that social cohesion and social inclusion remain priorities over the remaining phases of revitalization and beyond. Currently a number of key partnerships and investment opportunities have been identified that will support successful implementation of Social Development Plan actions.

Key partnerships structures include the Regent Park Executive Directors Network and the Social Development Plan Stakeholders Table. The key investments include the United Way of Greater Toronto's Social Infrastructure Investment Fund, the City's Community Funding of

the Social Development Plan and the identification of Regent Park as a Neighbourhood Improvement Area through the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020.

### **Funding Opportunities Identified for Regent Park Social Development Plan**

Additional program investments have been identified for implementation through the Regent Park Social Development Action Plan. The City's Community Funding has identified \$250,000 to support the implementation of actions in 3 neighbourhoods identified for revitalization. Agencies and residents in Regent Park along with Lawrence Height and Alexandra Park with receive will have an opportunity to apply for funding directed to implement actions identified in the Action Plans over a 2 year period.

The United Way was approached by community organizations and by Daniels to support a Social Infrastructure Investment Fund for the Regent Park Community. United Way is working to raise funds to a \$1m community investment fund to be allocated over three years through a community process. The fund was kick-started with a \$250k commitment from Daniels. Through a community engagement process, it was determined that Social Infrastructure Investment Fund will prioritize activities that will realize the social development plan goals in the areas of communication, community building, employment and safety. The work will be led by the community partners and administered by United Way.

### **Social Development Plan Actions**

Collaboration is key to Social Development Plan implementation and partners include the Regent Park Neighbourhood Association, Regent Park Executive Directors Network, Toronto Community Housing Corporation, the United Way of Greater Toronto and the City of Toronto.

The Regent Park Social Development Plan Stakeholders Table has identified 53 actions as an update to the Social Development Plan. The actions are grouped into four areas, Community Safety, Economic and Community Development, Community Building and Communications. Table 1 identifies the actions by Focus area, highlighting the overall goals and a summary of key actions.

TABLE 1: REGENT PARK SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS		
Focus Area	Goals	Summary of Prioritized Work Group Actions
Community Safety	Create the reality and the positive image that Regent Park is a safe space for everybody.	Mental Health Training Trauma Counselling Training Expand Programming for Youth 10 to 14 Youth Service Provisions Plan Address Isolated Children and Youth Programming and Initiatives for Parents Safety Communication Strategy

TABLE 1: REGENT PARK SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS		
Economic and Community Development	Increase sustainable employment rates and entrepreneurial opportunities for local residents.	Community Employment Officer Skills Exchange Prioritized Local Hiring Entrepreneurship Job Fairs Youth Employment Childminding Collective
Community Building	Create accessible informal and formal spaces, events and groups that bring residents together by removing social and physical barriers and building bridges, particularly between market and Toronto Community Housing Corporation residents.	Sports Teams Festivals in Regent Park Prioritize Local Program Registration Community Building Officers Capacity Building for Community Groups Paintbox Bistro Community Hub
Communication	Make information easily accessible for everyone in the community.	Language Ambassadors for Translational and interpretation Central Webpage Platform Regent Park Newsletter expansion Digital Information Boards Regent Park Television Program expansion

**Key Deliverables**

Community partners recognized that in order for the Social Development Plan Actions to be implemented a number of key deliverables must be met in addition to resourcing the Actions. Partners have identified a number of key deliverables, ranging from immediate to long-term actions that will ensure accountability and transparency as actions are implemented.

These deliverables strengthen the Stakeholders Table partnership and planning process. A priority deliverable is to increase the engagement of youth to have a voice in the planning process. The City, United Way and other potential funder partners will work with the Stakeholders Table to determine which actions can be implemented with existing resources and prioritize actions that need additional resources. Table 2 identifies the key benchmarks for implementing Social Development Plan Actions.

TABLE 2: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN KEY DELIVERABLES	
IMMEDIATE ACTIONS	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work plan for Regent Park Social Development Plan Coordinator (City 1 Full-Time Equivalent Community Development Worker)</li> <li>• Asset mapping of current Programs</li> <li>• Confirm Regent Park Social Development Plan Stakeholder Table Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Public Presentation of Regent Park Social Development Plan Refresh and Action Plan</li> <li>• Youth Engagement of Social Development Plan</li> <li>• Executive Director Network Partnership – Co-Chair Representation</li> <li>• Align Legacy Fund to Regent Park Social Development Plan</li> <li>• Regent Park Social Development Plan Presented Toronto Community Housing Corporation Board</li> <li>• Identify Actions for resourcing by Social Infrastructure Investment Fund</li> </ul>	July to November 2019
INTERMEDIATE ACTIONS	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize Regent Park Social Development Plan action for resourcing by City Funding</li> <li>• Identify actions for implementation by Social Infrastructure Investment Fund</li> <li>• Identify Trustees from Regent Park Executive Directors Network</li> </ul>	2020 to 2022
LONG-TERM ACTIONS	TIMELINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of Regent Park Social Development Plan Actions and outcomes</li> <li>• Public update of Regent Park Social Development Plan Outcomes for 2020 to 2022</li> <li>• Update Regent Park Social Development Plan Implementation</li> <li>• Update Actions to be implemented for 2022 and beyond</li> </ul>	Beyond 2022

**Resource Requested for Coordination of the Social Development Plan**

Community partners in Regent Park have requested that the City support the ongoing implementation of the Social Development Plan with a Coordinator position. The Stakeholders Table had received one-time funding from the City for a coordinator position to support the update of the Stakeholders Table and Social Development Plan. This funding will be coming to an end as of July 2019.

As a temporary measure Social Development Finance and Administration has identified resource available due to staff turnover and gapping of a position within the 2019 divisional budget to hire 1 full time temporary City Staff position for the remainder of 2019. Additional City resources will be required for the position to be extended through phase 4 and 5 of the Regent Park Revitalization which is estimated at 10 years. Table 3 below identifies additional the staffing resources necessary to maintain the position for 2020 and beyond.

Table 3	
Resources Required	Annualized Resources Identified for 2020 and future years
Additional Community Development Worker to lead the coordination and monitor the implementation of the actions identified in the Refreshed Regent Park Social Development Plan	\$85,000 (1 Full-Time Equivalent Community Development Worker);

The proposed additional full-time position will be a Community Development Worker specifically assigned to the Regent Park Neighbourhood to support the Stakeholders Table. The Community Development Worker will also support the Regent Park Neighbourhood Association and the Regent Park Executive Directors Table to implement and monitor Social Development Plan actions. The position will also ensure the continued alignment of the Social Development Plan with the Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020 and the City's ongoing partnership with the Toronto Community Housing Corporation and United Way of Greater Toronto.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Chris Brillinger  
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## **ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment 1, Regent Park Social Development Plan Actions