

Resourcing the Regent Park Social Development Plan

Date: October 1, 2019

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration

Wards: Ward 13

SUMMARY

The Regent Park Social Development Plan was developed through community consultations to ensure social inclusion and social cohesion of residents throughout the duration of the Regent Park revitalization. In 2017, after ten years of revitalization, community partners, residents and City staff updated the Social Development Plan and identified fifty three actions for implementation. Nineteen of these actions have been identified as priority and are ready for implementation while the remaining thirty four actions require further development.

This report identifies prioritized Regent Park Social Development Plan actions, services and programs and a strategy to resource these actions for consideration in the 2020 Budget process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

1. City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration, to submit a business case for consideration during the 2020 budget process to resource the actions, services and programs identified for the implementation of the Regent Park Social Development Plan.
2. City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development Finance and Administration, to submit a business case for consideration during the 2020 budget process to fund program operations to ensure ongoing engagement and capacity building of residents and grassroots group of Regent Park throughout the lifetime of revitalization.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

It is estimated that implementation of the Regent Park Social Development Plan will require \$0.5 million in annual funding over a five year period beginning in 2020, totalling \$2.5 million gross and net. It is anticipated that an additional \$0.050 million will also be required annually beginning in 2020 for program operation costs to ensure ongoing residents engagement throughout the lifetime of the Regent Park Revitalization.

- The funding of \$2.5 million over five years to implement Social Development Plan actions including new activities, services and initiatives focused on the four target areas of employment, safety, community building and communication will provide grants to community groups that support prioritized actions selected by residents on an annual basis through a public process managed by the Regent Park Social Development Plan Stakeholders Table.
- \$0.050 million in additional ongoing annual funding will be used to implement program operations including increased civic participation of residents, grassroots groups and youth facing multiple challenges and provide leadership and capacity building supports for residents of Regent Park to participate in the implementation of the Social Development Plan.

Table 1 of this report identifies \$5.95 million in priority actions identified by the Regent Park community for consideration. While \$1.408 million in current funding investments have been identified (see Table 3) remaining requirements to support these program are not currently funded in the 2019 Operating Budget and any approval in principle will also require funding approval through the 2020 budget process.

Program costs will be included in the 2020 operating budget submission for consideration against other City priorities and evaluated with all new and enhanced requests with identification of a sustainable funding source required.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has been provided the financial impacts associated with this program for review as part of the 2020 budget process.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on September 5, 2019 Economic and Community Development Committee approved a motion for the City Council to authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, or her designate, to accept a donation of \$0.25 million from Chris Brillinger to fund programs, services, initiatives and events in Regent Park in 2020 and 2021, in compliance with the City's Policy on Donations for Community Benefits. (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EC7.3>)

At its meeting on July 16, 2019 City Council approved the member motion directing 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 and to review the proposed actions, services and programs in

Attachment 1 to the report (June 13, 2019) from the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration and report to the October 16, 2019 Economic and Community Development Committee meeting on priority actions and a strategy to resource these needs in time for consideration for the 2020 Budget process.
(<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EC6.18>)

At its meeting on July 16, 2019 City Council authorized the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to implement a Projects & Events funding stream to include a focus on actions developed by the community through Social Development Plans and Action Plans in four community revitalization neighbourhoods: Downtown East, Regent Park, Alexandra Park, and Lawrence Heights.
(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2019/ec/bgrd/backgroundfile-134589.pdf>)

At its meeting on May 14, 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 May 6, 2014 City Council City authorized the creation of a trust fund called the Regent Park Legacy Trust Fund to support community development, capacity building in the community and sponsor special events for residents of Regent Park.
(<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.CD28.10>)

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

Priority Actions Identified

The Regent Park Stakeholders Table has been a key partner in the refresh of the Social Development Plan. The Table consists of residents, agency partners, local networks and City staff collaborating on updating the Social Development Plan recommendations. In March 2019, the Stakeholders Table relaunched and created 4 workgroups focussing on the following key areas of the Plan:

- Safety
- Employment and Economic Development
- Community-Building
- Communication.

Through a series of meetings and consultations, the Stakeholder Table identified fifty three specific actions required for the implementation of the refreshed Social Development Plan. This initial plan along with a request for a full-time permanent Coordinator was presented to Economic and Community Development Committee on June 26, 2019. The Committee requested that staff work with the community to prioritize the actions, programs and services and identify the required resources to implement the priority actions.

Throughout the summer of 2019 the work groups continued to meet to prioritize actions and on September 19th the Stakeholders Table approved a list of prioritized actions for consideration by the City and other funders. The Stakeholders Table also endorsed the development of a Funding work group to work collaboratively with the City, United Way of Greater Toronto and other funders to ensure the coordination and evaluation of funds invested into Regent Park.

Table 1 below is a summary of the prioritized actions of the Social Development Plan that includes focus area, goals and actions, and requested resources. A complete description of prioritized actions and resource requirement is included in Attachment 1 of this report.

TABLE 1: REGENT PARK SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PRIORITIZED ACTIONS			
Focus Area	Goals	Summary of Prioritized Work Group Actions	Resources Requested
Community Safety	Create the reality and the positive image that Regent Park is a safe space for everybody.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health First Aid Training for all Stakeholders • Youth Service Provision Plan for at-risk criminally involved youth using an intensive one-on-one approach • Map Youth Programming and Initiatives Across Regent Park • Programming Initiatives for Parents • Safety Communication Strategy 	\$0.3 mil
Economic and Community Development	Increase sustainable employment rates and entrepreneurial opportunities for local residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDP Employment Strategy • Small Business Hub • Security Training Employment • Print Shop • Food / Catering Social Enterprise • Educational Workshops on RGI, OW, ODSP and employment 	\$2.9 mil

TABLE 1: REGENT PARK SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PRIORITIZED ACTIONS			
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible Spaces for Community Groups • Paintbox Bistro Community Hub • Support Worker for RPNA, Access to Recreation & Friends of Regent Park • Sports Leagues Development Plan • Community Co-operation Facilitator 	\$2.2 mil
Communication	Make information easily accessible for everyone in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Website • Regent Park Television Content Development • Regent Park Community Newsletter 	\$0.550 mil

Of the fifty three actions, the Stakeholder Table identified nineteen priority actions that require an investment of \$5.95 million over 5 years in order to be fully implemented. Some actions require one time funding such as the development of a long term employment strategy, mapping of youth programming in the neighbourhood and creating a sports development plan. Other actions require longer term funding to support services or community initiatives over a 3 to 5 year period. The variety of projects, services and initiatives is a reflection of the diverse needs of the community.

Staff will continue to work with the Stakeholder Table to further develop the remaining thirty four actions for future implementation and funding.

Strategy to Resource Priority Actions

As directed by City Council, Social Development, Finance and Administration division has submitted a request through the 2020 Budget for \$0.085 million for a full-time equivalent Community Development Worker to project manage the implementation of the Regent Park Social Development Plan. Table 2 below outlines a strategy to resource the nineteen priority actions in time for consideration for the 2020 Budget process.

Table 2: 2020 Operating Budget Consideration for Regent Park Priority Actions	
Resources Required	Annualized Resources
Additional 5 year grants funding to resource actions identified in the Regent Park Social Development Plan	\$500,000 per year (for 5 years from 2020 to 2024)
Additional program operating resources required to support capacity building, resident civic participation and engagement opportunities and to support resident participation and leadership throughout the lifetime of the revitalization of Regent Park.	\$50,000 commencing 2020 and ongoing

The above \$2.55 million investment will target the prioritized actions identified through the refreshed Regent Park Social Development Plan. Staff recommend an investment of \$500,000 per year for a 5 year period to fund a new City grant specifically focused on the implementation of the Social Development Plan. If approved by Council, the grant will begin implementation in 2020.

City staff will collaborate with the Stakeholders Table to identify a grant process through the newly established Funding Work Group to ensure funds are directly invested to support the Regent Park Social Development Plan. City staff will also work with the Stakeholders Table to implement a public process to support resident participation and decision-making in the selection of prioritized actions on a year to year basis and assist with the creation of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the grant.

In addition to the grant, City staff are recommending an increase of \$50,000 to the 2020 Social Development, Finance and Administration operating budget for program resources to support the ongoing recruitment and leadership development of youth facing multiple challenges and support grassroots resident-led groups to actively participate in the Social Development Plan implementation.

Additional Collaborations and Available Resources

The refresh of the Regent Park Social Development Plan and the larger Downtown East Action Plan will allow for more collaboration between City divisions, local service organizations and resident groups. There is also an increased opportunity for an ongoing funding partnership between the City of Toronto and the United Way of Greater Toronto to work collaboratively to ensure investments in the neighbourhood are aligned.

The Downtown East Action Plan is a five year City Council approved strategy that responds to complex issues related to community safety, mental health, homelessness, and

wellbeing. Regent Park falls within the Downtown East area, resulting in enhanced staff and community collaboration on the implementation of activities that fall within both action plans. City partners including Parks Forestry and Recreation, Toronto Employment and Social Service and Toronto Community Housing are participating in both plans and contributing in-kind resources to further ensure actions are delivered.

The City, Toronto Community Housing and United Way are working together to coordinate and align funding opportunities for investments into resident-led activities, programs and services that align with the Regent Park Social Development Plan.

Table 3 below identifies current investments being made in the Regent Park community that align with the Social Development Plan.

Table 3: CURRENT INVESTMENTS	
Funding Investment	Total Funding
Social Impact Investment Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A \$1m community investment fund to be allocated over three years through a community process. The fund is managed by the United Way. 	\$1,000,000 over 3 years
Donation from Chris Brillinger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donation to the City of Toronto by former City Staff Chris Brillinger to fund programs, services, initiatives and events in Regent Park in 2020 and 2021 	\$250,000 over 2 years
Projects and Events Grants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Toronto Community Housing grant stream directly focused on implementing action plans developed for implementation in revitalization communities including Regent Park, Lawrence Heights and Alexandra Park. 	\$150,000 over 2 years
Regent Park Legacy Trust Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fund totaling \$736,000 initially raised by Regent Park residents and currently held in trust by the City of Toronto. The interest generated annually is invested through a third party organization as a community grant specifically for the Regent Park community. 	\$8,000 per year based on annual interest

The investments identified above total \$1.408 million and are currently being administered to support the Regent Park community. As noted in Table 2 the City of Toronto contribution to the Regent Park Social Development Plan is identified as \$2.55 million over a 5 year period. Together, these investments will ensure that the priority actions identified by residents and community partners are actualized and support social inclusion and social cohesion in the revitalization of the Regent Park community.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment #1, Regent Park Social Development Plan: Prioritized Actions