

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM5.20	ACTION			Ward: 12
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Exploring Partnerships to Create a Vibrant and Sustainable Community Hub at Vaughan Road Academy - by Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic and Community Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Josh Matlow, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration to work with appropriate City Divisions and Agencies, Toronto District School Board representatives, Oakwood Vaughan Neighbourhood Action Partnership, other appropriate community groups and the Ward Councillor to identify opportunities for creating a vibrant and sustainable community hub at the Vaughan Road Academy that would meet the needs of the local community, and to report back to City Council in the third quarter of 2019.

Summary

The Oakwood Vaughan neighbourhood continues to be an under-served and under-resourced neighbourhood. There is a lack of City programs and community spaces to address the needs of the community.

Vaughan Road Academy, located at 529 Vaughan Road, is a public high school under the jurisdiction of the Toronto District School Board. While no longer an operating school, the Toronto District School Board voted in February 2017 to retain the building as a core holding, and put it to use for purposes still to-be-negotiated. Currently, the school is being used as an overflow school to accommodate students from schools in other parts of the City that are under construction.

A community based resident organization, Oakwood Vaughan Neighbourhood Action Partnership, has been engaged in discussions to convert the Vaughan Road Academy property into a community hub where, while still under ownership of the Toronto District School Board, the building would house a number of diverse programs and community services accessible to the public. Parks, Forestry and Recreation offers swimming lessons and basketball programs at Vaughan Road Academy and the Learning Enrichment Foundation operates a child care centre on the site. A community hub at Vaughan Road Academy would help address the need for

programming and space in this community and would align with the City's Oakwood Vaughan Strategic Plan. The Plan, adopted by the Community Development and Recreation Committee in May 2015, addresses neighbourhood issues of high unemployment, petty crime and lack of economic development.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.CD3.11>

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM5.20