

**City Council****Notice of Motion**

MM11.16	ACTION			Ward: All
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**Supporting Youth in the Rustic Neighbourhood Improvement Area - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão**

*\* 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 Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services to allocate funding from the TO Wards Peace program to support youth in the Jane Falstaff community who have lived experience of gun violence with capacity building supports related to employment and leadership development.
2. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to consult with youth from the Jane Falstaff community to develop a local plan for the provision of recreation programs and services to respond to local need, and report through the Economic and Community Development Committee on the resources required for the implementation of the plan.

**Summary**

Jane Falstaff is a Toronto Community Housing community located in the Jane Street and Falstaff Avenue area within the boundaries of the Rustic Neighbourhood Improvement Area with 34 percent of the population composed of children and youth and a median household income 32 percent lower than the rest of the City. Jane Falstaff is made up of three older high-rise apartment buildings at 20, 30 and 40 Falstaff Avenue with 660 rent-geared-to-income units.

In 2019 alone, the Jane Falstaff community experienced five shooting incidents, the most recent on August 1, 2019 when 16 year old Hanad Abdullahi Ali was fatally shot in the stairwell of his building. Residents are worried about their safety and the safety of their children, and youth continue to experience trauma as a result of exposure to community violence.

On October 2, 2019, through the adoption of MM10.2- Addressing the Root Causes of Violence - TO Wards, City Council approved an increase to the 2019 Operating Budget for

Social Development, Finance and Administration to implement year one of the TO Wards Peace program which leverages the lived experience of affected communities to develop and implement effective community engagement approaches, innovative communication tools, social media strategies and targeted investment geared at violence prevention and interruption.

In July 2018, the Board of Health recognized exposure to community violence as a social determinant of health. Violence prevention initiatives need to focus on the root causes of violence and youth already involved in community violence must be engaged in identifying the programs and services they need to help them succeed.

I have been actively engaging youth of the Jane Falstaff community and they are asking that the City invest in their future and provide alternatives to violence.

The issues in the Jane Falstaff community have perpetuated for far too long. As a City we can and must do better for our young people.

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

Member Motion MM11.16