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## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM13.12	ACTION			Ward: 19, 20
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### **Change in Location for Donation of International Mother Language Day Monument from Taylor Creek Park to Dentonia Park - by Councillor Brad Bradford, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford**

*\* 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 Brad Bradford, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to change the location of the donation of the International Mother Language Day Monument from Taylor Creek Park to Dentonia Park.

#### **Summary**

International Mother Language Day is an important annual event for the Bangladeshi diaspora. It commemorates an event on February 21, 1952 when four students died in a fight to have Bengali recognized as an official language in what was then East Pakistan and later became Bangladesh.

The 30th General Conference of UNESCO held on November 17, 1999, unanimously proclaimed February 21st as International Mother Language Day to protect and promote linguistic diversity and multilingual education in the 6,700 languages of the world. This has become an important celebration in Bengali communities in Toronto and around the world.

The Bengali community in Crescent Town has spent years looking for a suitable location to erect an International Mother Language Day monument in Toronto.

At its meeting on October 2, 2017, City Council adopted Item 2017.PE21.2 to accept an in-kind donation for a monument valued up to \$0.25 million from Organization for Toronto International Mother Language Day Monument Inc., and for the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to negotiate and sign a donation and construction agreement with the organization to have the monument installed in Taylor Creek Park.

Based on recommendations from the Bengali community through consultation with the Councillor's office, it was deemed appropriate to move the location of the monument from Taylor Creek Park to Dentonia Park. Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff support the decision

and have identified an appropriate site within the Park to build the monument. Once built, the City will become the owner of the monument, and will continue to undertake regular maintenance of the site such as gardening and lawn mowing, however maintenance of the monument itself will remain the responsibility of International Mother Language Day Monument Implementation Committee, Inc.

Timely consideration for this Motion is required in order for the work to commence in Spring 2020.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM13.12