

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM13.23	ACTION			Ward: 10
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Planning the Future of St. Patrick's Market - by Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Cressy, seconded by Councillor Paul Ainslie, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Deputy City Manager, Community and Social Services, to convene a community working group, to include area residents, the Grange Community Association, and the Queen West Business Improvement Area, in consultation with the Ward Councillor, to consider the future community use of St. Patrick's Market, and to consider its original intention as a public market, plans to revitalize the adjacent public park, and other community and cultural uses.

Summary

As our downtown grows, it is vitally important that our publicly-owned properties and buildings are used for the public benefit, to provide the vital services and facilities that our vibrant and dense communities need.

Situated on bustling Queen West at 238 Queen Street West, St. Patrick's Market is a heritage structure visible in the backdrop of television programs produced from the iconic 299 Queen Street West across the street, and broadcast across Canada. Bequeathed to the City of Toronto in 1837 to become a public market benefitting residents of Toronto, St. Patrick's Market has the potential to be an iconic, city-wide and local destination.

Regrettably, St. Patrick's Market has been underutilized since 1989 when a 50-year lease was signed with a private operator. In September 2019, after years of work, the City initiated a legal process to terminate the lease on grounds that the private long-term leaseholder had not complied with key terms that require a publicly-accessible food market to operate in the building, along with grounds related to non-payment of rent, and others.

On December 12, 2019, a decision was issued by the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in the City's favour. This decision formally terminates the lease with the private lease-holder, and permits the City to re-enter and take possession of the Market. Now, the City must begin a

robust public process to determine the future use of the Market. Through this process, we must consider its original intention as a public market, our plan to revitalize the adjacent public park, and other community and cultural uses that are critical to support our downtown communities.

This motion is urgent in order to begin work to implement the court's decision.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM13.23