



REPORT FOR INFORMATION

Supplementary Report - Resourcing the Regent Park Social Development Plan: Update on Investments, Employment and Training

Date: October 28, 2019

To: City Council

From: Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

Wards: Ward 13

SUMMARY

This report responds to the October 16, 2019 Economic and Community Development Committee meeting Item EC8.5 Resourcing the Regent Park Social Development Plan by providing information on:

1. How much has been invested by Toronto Community Housing Corporation and community partners on the revitalization over the past ten years
2. The number of full and part time jobs created over the last ten years
3. The training programs implemented over the last ten years, including the number of residents trained.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of October 16, 2019, the Economic and Community Development Committee approved the report Resourcing the Regent Park Social Development Plan with an amendment directing staff to report to the October 29 and 30, 2019 City Council meeting on:

1. How much has been invested by Toronto Community Housing Corporation and community partners on the revitalization over the past ten years;

2. The number of full and part time jobs created over the last ten years; and 3. The training programs implemented over the last ten years, including the number of residents trained.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EC8.5>)

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. The Staff will 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 adopted the Community Benefits Framework, which sets out a centralized approach to how the City of Toronto coordinates and maximizes the social and economic impact of its community benefits initiatives. Included in the Community Benefits Framework is a Phase One Implementation Plan which includes a range of implementation activities. Priority actions include establishing a Community Benefits Coordinator, developing a community benefits data tracking system, and developing a City web page to publish hard targets and progress updates.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EC6.15>)

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. (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2007.EX12.1>)

COMMENTS

The initial Regent Park Social Development Plan was approved by City Council on September 17, 2007. The Social Development Plan had seventy-five recommendations for managing social change in Regent Park over the course of the redevelopment. A component of the Social Development Plan included a local employment plan entitled "Towards a Neighbourhood of Choice and Connection."

The employment plan has four key areas:

1. Serving Individuals
2. Serving Employers
3. New Service Delivery Approach
4. Dynamic Employment and Training System.

The purpose of the employment plan was to ensure employment opportunities offered through the revitalization process were made available to local residents and create a new integrated approach to service delivery for job seekers, agencies and employers.

As the lead City partner for the implementation of the economic development plan, Toronto Employment and Social Services worked with community partners to deliver job training and employment opportunities to the residents of Regent Park. The following program investments have taken place since 2007 to support this goal.

- In 2007 a dedicated staff was assigned to work directly in Regent Park to provide employment services one day per week.
- In 2010, staff supports were transitioned into a small hub at 530 Dundas St. E, with 4 staff providing services five days per week.
- In 2016, services were expanded with the opening of the Regent Park Community Centre which included the opening of the Regent Park Employment Service Centre. Currently Toronto Employment and Social Services and Dixon Hall Employment Services (Employment Ontario Agency) provide employment services to community

residents from the Regent Park community. Currently the Centre supports 18,000 visits per year.

To ensure the Social Development Plan continued to respond to the changing needs in the community, the plan was regularly reviewed and updated. In 2017 Toronto Community Housing, the City and community partners updated the original 75 recommendations of the Social Development Plan to continue to build on the vision of a socially inclusive and socially cohesive Regent Park. In March 2019, the Social Development Plan was again updated so it better responded to the new conditions of the revitalization process. The Regent Park Stakeholders Table was relaunched as the vehicle for implementation of the Social Development Plan. The refreshed plan includes the following focus areas:

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

Workgroups were established to correspond to each of the 4 focus areas and identify priority actions to be implemented in support of the Social Development Plan. On October 16, 2019, the priority actions were approved by the Economic and Community Development Committee. The Committee also directed staff to report to the October 29 and 30, 2019 City Council meeting on:

1. How much has been invested by Toronto Community Housing Corporation and community partners on the revitalization over the past ten years
2. The number of full and part time jobs created over the last ten years
3. The training programs implemented over the last ten years, including the number of residents trained.

Social Development Finance and Administration has consulted with Toronto Community Housing Corporation, Daniels Corporation and Toronto Employment and Social Services to gather information on the investments made into the Regent Park Revitalization over the last 10 years including the number of employment and training opportunities created for residents.

Investments in Revitalization

Table 1 identifies a total of \$8.3 million invested by Toronto Community Housing Corporation and Daniels Corporation into Regent Park over the last 10 years. These investments have focused on arts and culture, community building, community economic development/social procurement, training & capacity building, youth, urban agriculture & food security programs, projects and initiatives.

The Toronto Community Housing Corporation total of \$0.864 million reflects their social investments in Phases 1 to 3 of the revitalization and the community engagement investments in Phase 3. The Daniels Corporation directly invested \$2.364 million and

indirectly invested \$5.068 million by leveraging contributions from the corporate and philanthropic sectors in Phases 1 to 3 of the revitalization.

TABLE 1: TORONTO COMMUNITY HOUSING and THE DANIELS CORPORATION INVESTMENTS IN REGENT PARK REVITALIZATIONS OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS		
Partner	Investments Detailed (Year)	Total Resources Invested
Toronto Community Housing Corporation	Community Building Events and Programs Community Economic Development and Social Procurement Training and Capacity Building Urban Agriculture and Food Security Youth Community Engagement*	\$ 864,000
THE Daniels Corporation	Community Building Events and Programs Community Economic Development and Social Procurement Training and Capacity Building Urban Agriculture and Food Security Youth Arts & Cultural Programming Support for Community Organizations The Journey Musical Production	Direct Investment: \$2,364,000 Indirect Investment: \$5,068,000
Total Investment		\$8,296,000

Job Creation through Revitalization

Regent Park residents have had access to assistance with job searching, career planning, information about learning events; and supports connecting to local employment, educational and training opportunities throughout the lifetime of Revitalization. Toronto Employment and Social Services continues to work in partnership with the Regent Park Stakeholders Table through the Employment and Economic Development Work Group as part of the refreshed Regent Park Social Development Plan.

Toronto Employment and Social Services has only tracked the number of jobs created for Regent Park residents as a result of the revitalization. Toronto Employment and Social Services reports that a total of 582 jobs have been created through opportunities directly related the Regent Park revitalization. The jobs created were in the Construction Trades, Retail, Hospitality, Finance and Administration sectors. Two hundred and ninety (290) residents were employed between 2009 and 2013, at that time part-time and full-time positions were not tracked separately. Since 2014, 259 residents have been placed in part-time employment opportunities and 33 residents have been placed into full-time employment opportunities.

In addition to the 582 jobs directly related to revitalization, Regent Park residents were connected to other initiatives as a result of Toronto Employment and Social Services ongoing engagement of local residents. Over the last 10 years residents have been placed in 1108 additional jobs due to employment opportunities made available through Toronto Employment and Social Services.

Training Programs

Table 2 identifies the training programs and number of Regent Park residents trained as a result of investments in the Regent Park revitalization. A total of 348 Regent Park residents participated in training and capacity building initiatives over the last 10 years of the revitalization. Toronto Community Housing Corporation has invested over \$13,000 in the Construction Trades Pre-Apprenticeship program since 2016. The Daniels Corporation has invested over \$206,000 in the Creating Real Apprenticeships for Toronto, Moving Towards Opportunity and the Higher Learning Initiative programs. In addition Toronto Employment and Social Services has contributed \$0.165 million for the Carpentry and Pre-Apprenticeship Program, the Basic Culinary Skills Certificate & Training Program as well as other certification programs.

TABLE 2: TRAINING PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED FOR REVITALIZATION AND RESIDENTS TRAINED OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS	
PROGRAMS	RESIDENTS TRAINED
Moving Towards Opportunity: A pre-employment & job readiness program for youth 16- 18; followed by paid summer job placement	128
Construction Trades Pre-Apprenticeship: A pre-apprenticeship program in Construction Trades	34
Higher Learning Initiative: An academic & credential assessment; learning & employment service plans; and academic upgrading for Internationally Educated Professionals	52
Carpentry and Pre-Apprenticeship Program (2013 & 2014)	21
Toronto Paramedic Services provided Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation level C certification for youth	39
Basic Culinary Skills Certificate & Training Program (2012 & 2013): A Culinary and Food preparation skills training program	33

TABLE 2: TRAINING PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED FOR REVITALIZATION AND RESIDENTS TRAINED OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS

Workplace Hazardous Materials Information Systems & Fall Arrest	28
Food Handlers Certification	13
Total Residents Trained	348

Moving Forward

The new Community Development Worker hired through Social Development Finance and Administration will work with the Stakeholder Table and partners to develop a project charter for each of the Social Development Plan workgroups that clarifies program scope, objectives, roles, responsibilities and a detailed implementation and evaluation plan with timelines. Included in the implementation plan will be the creation of a coordinated approach to data collection, analysis and reporting. For transparency and accountability to Regent Park residents and all stakeholders, a City web page ensure all economic and community development actions from the Social Development Plan workgroups are monitored.

Toronto Employment and Social Services will continue to work collaboratively with the Regent Park Stakeholders Table as a participating member of the Economic and Community Development Workgroup. Toronto Employment and Social Services will continue to provide access to employment opportunities created through the revitalization, and any other employment or training opportunities and provide employment services through Regent Park Employment Services site in collaboration with Dixon Hall.

Social Development Plan Implementation and Accountability Structure

As part of the ongoing refresh of the Social Development Plan in Regent Park, the City, Toronto Community Housing Corporation and The Daniels Corporation, and any future development and funding partners, will continue to work with the Stakeholders Table to develop regular and ongoing updates for the community on community and economic development investments.

In addition, the Inter-Divisional Project Management Team consisting of relevant City divisions will be reconvened to provide service coordination, monitoring and evaluation of ongoing investments in the community. The Project Management Team will identify opportunities to align with the City Council adopted Community Benefits Framework, including the data tracking system to be developed. It will also be a key link to the Stakeholders Table.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

No attachments