

City Council

Motion Without Notice

MM23.28	ACTION			Ward: 13
---------	--------	--	--	----------

233 Carlton Street - Request for Additional Accountability and Transparency for the Lease Agreement - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** 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 Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager and the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management to make public, as soon as possible, the following information about the recent lease agreement for 233 Carlton Street, and to also report to the September 30 and October 1, 2020 meeting of City Council on this real estate transaction:
 - a. how did the property first come to the attention of senior City officials;
 - b. who from the WE-related organizations communicated with the senior city officials that may have affected final delegated decision-making on site location and financial terms; and
 - c. if the value paid for the lease agreement is inline and competitive with fair market valuation for comparable properties.

Summary

In recent weeks, there have been considerable public questions surrounding the real estate holdings and financial accounting of the WE Charity, Me to We social enterprise and the Kielburger family. The majority of these properties are located in the Downtown East, and in particular Cabbagetown and Moss Park neighbourhoods.

Numerous residents have contacted my office requesting information be made public regarding the City's lease agreement for 233 Carlton Street and any relationships between the City of Toronto, WE Charity, ME to WE social enterprise or the Kielburger family.

The leased premises at 233 Carlton Street is the intended new location for the Adelaide Resource Centre for Women, which includes a 24-hour women's drop-in centre operated by

Fred Victor in partnership with other government-funded service agencies.

We believe it is in the public's interest for the City of Toronto to release as much detail as possible outlining the process used to identify, secure and decision on the location. Of particular interest, the public members are asking how did the site come to the attention of senior City Officials, what evaluation criteria was used to select the property, who from the WE-related organizations communicated with the senior Officials that had final decision-making authority, and if the value paid for the lease is inline with current market valuation for comparable properties.

This matter is urgent because the real estate and financial matters of the WE Charity and ME to WE social enterprise are currently before the Ethics Committee in Ottawa, and while there is controversy, it is important for the City of Toronto to demonstrate that any decisions made by staff through delegated authority were done appropriately through a transparent and accountable process.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM23.