

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM26.1	ACTION			Ward: 13
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Authorization to Release Section 45(9) funds to fund the Production and Installation of Two Heritage Plaques to Recognize the Heritage and Cultural Significance of City Park Co-op - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Mike Layton

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

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

1. City Council increase the Approved 2020 Operating Budget for Heritage Toronto on a one-time basis by \$15,000.00 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 45(9) community benefits obtained from the development at 608-618 Yonge Street, 5-9 St Joseph Street and 15-25 St. Nicholas Street (Source Account: XR3028- 4500108) for the production and installation of two heritage plaques at City Park Co-op (484 Church Street, 31 Alexander Street, and 51 Alexander Street).

Summary

This Motion seeks authorization to release \$15,000 in Section 45(9) funds to Heritage Toronto for two heritage plaques to recognize both the heritage and cultural significance of City Park Co-op in the Church Wellesley Village.

City Park was the first Modern, multi-building apartment complex in Toronto and, at the time of its construction in 1954, the biggest single residential project in the country. The buildings, designed by architect Peter Caspari, replaced a block of housing considered substandard during a post-war push to improve living conditions in the City.

Caspari's City Park, located between Church, Wood, and Alexander streets, consisted of three, 14-storey buildings with large open spaces between each one, which allowed more light to reach individual units. The architect also paid particular attention to eliminating sound transfer between apartments: each unit is separated by a poured concrete wall.

The completed City Park apartment complex was celebrated as one of the first Modern-style residential buildings in downtown Toronto, and it boasted high-tech features such as built-in TV connections, General Electric kitchen appliances, and milk boxes connected directly to the

hallways for easy deliveries. Sun gardens were located on the roof of each tower.

City Park was the first large, multi-unit housing complex in the burgeoning Church and Wellesley Village. The units were affordable to young single people and were a nucleus for the formation of the local LGBTQ culture. The complex has been run as a housing co-operative since 1989.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM26.1