



Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM31.8	ACTION			Ward: 23
--------	--------	--	--	----------

Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds from the Development at McCowan Road and Finch Avenue to Community Matters Toronto for Mural Art on Bell Utility Boxes in the Agincourt North Area - by Councillor Cynthia Lai, seconded by Councillor Mark Grimes

** 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 Cynthia Lai, seconded by Councillor Mark Grimes, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the Approved 2021 Operating Budget for Non-Program, by \$15,000.00 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 funds obtained from the development at the southwest and southeast corners of McCowan Road and Finch Avenue, secured for community facilities, (Source Account: XR3026-3700162) for the purpose of providing one time capital funding to Community Matters Toronto to complete ten murals on Bell Boxes in the Agincourt North area of Ward 23 – Scarborough North (Cost Centre: NP2161).
2. City Council direct that the funds be forwarded to Community Matters Toronto upon the signing of an Undertaking by Community Matters Toronto that governs the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements.

Summary

The Bell Box Murals Project is a program of Community Matters Toronto. Since 2009, artists from the Bell Boxes Murals Project have painted murals on Bell Canada outdoor utility boxes throughout Toronto, Southern Ontario and Quebec.

The benefits of the Bell Boxes Murals Project include:

- Replaces graffiti and vandalism with original works of art.
- Makes the streets more inviting to residents and visitors.
- Enhances residents' sense of community.
- Art is accessible to all people, regardless of income, language or social stature.
- Creates a public art channel to reflect local culture and heritage.
- Provides income and opportunities for local artists.

Ten Bell utility boxes have been identified throughout the Agincourt North area in Ward 23, by area residents and Councillor Lai and approved for mural installations by Bell Field Services. Section 37 funds have been secured and received from the development at the southwest and southeast corners of McCowan Road and Finch Avenue for the purposes of public initiatives in the Agincourt North area.

The theme for the murals will be determined in consultation with local residents, businesses and artists. Preference will be given to artists who live or work in Ward 23. The Bell Canada utility box mural project is to be completed in Summer/Fall 2021 by the Bell Box Murals Project, represented by Michael Cavanaugh of Community Matters Toronto.

The intent of this Motion is to transfer a total of \$15,000.00 of Section 37 funds from the development at the southwest and southeast corners of McCowan Road and Finch Avenue to Community Matters Toronto to provide one-time capital funding for the purpose of painting murals on ten Bell utility boxes in the Agincourt North area of Ward 23 – Scarborough North.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM31.8