

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM32.32	ACTION			Ward: 20
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Authorization to enter into User and Naming Rights Agreements with Jays Care Foundation - by Councillor Gary Crawford, seconded by Councillor Mark Grimes

** Notice of this Motion has not been given. A two-thirds vote is required to waive notice.
* This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic and Community Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.
* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

Recommendations

Councillor Gary Crawford, seconded by Councillor Mark Grimes, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to negotiate and enter into a User Agreement with Jays Care Foundation for the use of Highview Park to provide adaptive baseball programming for the community for a term not longer than five years, on terms and conditions (including any renewal rights) satisfactory to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
2. Provided acceptable terms can be agreed upon, City Council authorize the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to negotiate and enter into a Naming Rights Agreement in compliance with the City of Toronto Individual and Corporate Naming Rights Policy, for a term not longer than 10 years, on terms and conditions (including renewal rights) satisfactory to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

Summary

Jays Care Foundation is an organization dedicated to creating lasting social change for children and youth in marginalized communities through the game of baseball. Since 2001, Jays Care Foundation has donated over \$2 million of capital funding towards the revitalization of Parks, Forestry and Recreation baseball diamonds and fields across the City of Toronto through their Field of Dreams program.

In its decision on June 27, 2018, City Council adopted a Motion (2018.MM43.40) that authorized Parks, Forestry and Recreation to accept a donation of up to \$2 million and to enter into a donation agreement with Jays Care Foundation for the construction of a new accessible baseball diamond at Highview Park in Ward 36 (now Ward 20), in compliance with the City's Policy on Donations for Community Benefits. Construction on this baseball diamond was

completed in Fall 2020, creating the first fully accessible field ever to be built in the City of Toronto. The baseball diamond, playground and surrounding areas have been specifically designed to meet the unique play and accessibility needs of children living with physical and/or cognitive disabilities.

As part of the partnership and through a user agreement, Jays Care Foundation would like to provide adaptive baseball programming to the community through their Challenger Baseball program now that construction on the accessible diamond at Highview Park is complete. Challenger Baseball is Jays Care Foundation's adaptive baseball program, run in partnership with Little League Canada and Baseball Canada, specifically designed to empower children, youth and adults living with physical and/or cognitive disabilities. The program teaches athletes living with disabilities the core life skills inherent to baseball, including: teamwork, communication, determination, resiliency, inclusion, support and courage. Challenger Baseball ensures every athlete has the opportunity to play in a fun and safe environment where they learn to become more independent, build confidence, improve their communication skills, and set and achieve their own personal goals.

Also as part of the partnership and through a naming rights agreement, Jays Care Foundation would like to name the baseball diamond at Highview Park "Roy Halladay Field". Roy Halladay profoundly impacted the Toronto community during his time as a Blue Jay. Roy and his wife, Brandy began hosting kids in 'Doc's Box' in 2003, extending an invitation for families from SickKids to take a break from the hospital and watch a Blue Jays game live. Jays Care Foundation has carried on the tradition of Doc's Box to this day with over 3,000 kids, who otherwise wouldn't have the chance to experience a Blue Jays game, visiting the Jays Care Community Clubhouse at Rogers Centre annually. As one of only two Blue Jays players to be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, Roy Halladay Field will honour Roy's commitment to bringing opportunities to Canadian kids in need and cement his legacy as a community leader in the City of Toronto.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM32.32