

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM41.12	ACTION			Ward: 13
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Reallocation of Section 37 Funds for St James Food Table - 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 2022 approved Operating Budget for Shelter, Support and Housing Administration on a one-time basis by \$967,000.00 gross, \$0 net, for transfer to Toronto Community Housing Corporation in order to undertake capital building upgrades to the building at 200 Wellesley Street East necessary to create a Food Hub, (cost centre: FD5101) fully funded by Section 37 (Planning Act Reserve Funds) community benefits from the following developments:

- a. 480-494 Yonge Street and 3 Grosvenor Street, secured for capital improvements for new or existing cultural and/or community space in the Ward, in the amount of \$617,655.00 (source account XR3026-3700911); and
- b. 88 Queen Street East, 10 Mutual Street and parts of 30-50 Mutual Street, secured for community, recreation and/or cultural space improvements, in the amount of \$349,345.00 (source account XR3026-3701155).

2. City Council direct that \$967,000 be forwarded to Toronto Community Housing Corporation, subject to Toronto Community Housing Corporation signing an Undertaking governing the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements.

Summary

The St. James Town neighbourhood experiences high rates of food insecurity. Although it is very densely populated, it is served only by two grocery stores, which do not ensure affordable access to healthy, fresh, culturally-appropriate food for low-income residents. The St. James Town Food Table is an exciting opportunity to bring a critical and community-led service to St. James Town.

The St. James Town Community Food Table was established in January 2021, following direction from City Council and convened with representation from community agencies, residents and residential apartment owner groups, including Toronto Community Housing Corporation and City divisions. The intent of establishing the Food Table was to lead the

development of a collaborative framework to address food security in the St James Town neighbourhood. The key actions were established by members of the Food Table along with city staff. They include: 1) Developing emergency response teams in buildings that can provide residents with food and water during a sudden event such as a power outage or fire; 2) Ensuring residents are engaged in the development and implementation of food programming in the neighbourhood; and 3) Mobilizing spaces for food programming in St. James Town.

The vision of the food table is as follows: “A collaborative, resident-led, and sustainable food system that secures healthy, culturally appropriate, quality food that is equitable and just for the community of St. James Town. We envision this neighbourhood system as a part of City and regional food systems.” The Hub draws on the Neighbourhood Pod model, currently supported by the City as a local response to the pandemic. The idea is that pods facilitate and build community capacity and social capital that already exist within neighbourhoods.

In order to support the mandate of the Interim Collaborative Framework, one-time funds of \$50,000 will be made available as part of the Request for Expressions of Interest Process for the 200 Wellesley Food Hub. Toronto Community Housing has committed to spending \$1 million dollars, yet there is a missing balance of \$967,000 for the kitchens, which includes countertop, millwork, electrical rough-ins, plumbing work and appliances, as well as elevators, and allowance for entrance reception storefront and interior fit outs of pantry, office and storage space.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM41.12