

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM47.1	ACTION			Ward: All
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Voluntary Community Benefits Plans - by Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic and Community Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Joe Mihevc, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration, the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, to examine any possible options for projects submitted for approval through development application processes to voluntarily include community benefits plans with proposed thresholds for equity hiring and social procurement to support inclusive economic development, and to report back through the Community Benefits Framework report to the Economic and Community Development Committee in the first quarter of 2023.

Summary

Adopted by City Council in 2019, (Item 2019.EC6.15), the Community Benefits Framework guides City divisions, agencies and corporations on how to include inclusive economic community benefits in City projects and initiatives such as training, employment and business opportunities intended to reach Indigenous, Black and equity-deserving communities and/or local communities.

Inclusive economic community benefits are best achieved when requirements are secured through project or service agreements where the City's legal authority is clear, such as procured service agreements or lease agreements. The City's Social Procurement Policy and Housing Now program are examples of the City's current community benefits initiatives. Hard targets and strong enforcement mechanisms are essential in this context.

While the City of Toronto does not have the necessary authority to mandate such requirements from private developments through the planning approvals process, unlike some municipalities in other jurisdictions, there is significant untapped potential in this area to leverage the City's experience and expertise. This Motion requests that City staff explore options for a voluntary program to support and encourage the inclusion of effective and meaningful community benefits plans as part of private development projects.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM47.1