

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM2.8	ACTION			Ward: 14
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Waiving Development Charges and Other Fees to Support the Renovation of Blake Boulton Youth Outreach Service at 41 Blake Street - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle

** 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 Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle, recommends that:

1. City Council exempt Blake Boulton Youth Outreach Service from the payment of development charges in respect of Building Permit Application Number 22 155607 BLD00 BA for the proposed renovation to the Blake Boulton Youth Outreach Centre at 41 Blake Street.

Summary

Blake Boulton Youth Outreach Service has been providing long-term psychotherapy and counselling for high-risk, vulnerable youth and families since 1989, with a special focus on the Blake-Boulton community in Ward 14. The long-term presence of Blake Boulton Youth Outreach Service in the Blake-Boulton neighbourhood has had a profound impact on the mental health of residents and on overall community safety.

In response to the growing demand for their community mental health services, Blake Boulton Youth Outreach Service is renovating their house at 41 Blake Street to add the space required to grow from two to three therapists/counsellors and expand their mental health services.

The renovation will also achieve other important community and City objectives. The building expansion will be focused solely on the ground floor so that Blake Boulton Youth Outreach Service's services will be fully accessible, consistent with the goals of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

Blake Boulton Youth Outreach Service is sustained by the generous donation of foundations and hundreds of individual donors. Blake Boulton Youth Outreach Service has successfully raised the bulk of the renovation costs, however, the \$18,657 in development charges imposes a significant burden on the project.

Considering the important mental health services that Blake Boulton Youth Outreach Service provides, free of charge, to underserved and marginalized communities, we recommend that all site plan fees be waived for their renovation project, so that work can proceed in 2023.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM2.8

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-230394.pdf>)