

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM17.17	ACTION			Ward: 18
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Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds from Various Developments for a Permanent Memorial to the Yonge Street Tragedy - by Councillor Lily Cheng, seconded by Councillor Parthi Kandavel

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Lily Cheng, seconded by Councillor Parthi Kandavel, recommends that:

1. City Council amend the 2024 Capital Budget for Economic Development and Culture by \$118,452 gross and \$0 debt, with cash flow funding of \$50,000 in 2024 and a future year commitment of \$68,452 in 2025, for the creation of a new capital project, funded by \$74,531 in Section 37 community benefits obtained from the development at 8, 10 Northtown Way (Source Account XR3026-3700254), \$15,747 in Section 37 community benefits obtained from the development at 27-49 Bales Ave. and 30, 32, 34, 42 Glendora Ave. (Source Account XR3026-3700049), \$28,174 in Section 37 community benefits obtained from the development at 4726-4728 Yonge St., 9-31 Bogert Ave., 2-28 Poyntz Ave. (Source Account XR3026-3700412) for the purpose of developing a memorial to honour the lives of those lost in the Yonge Street Tragedy.

Summary

This motion recommends that City Council authorize the release of \$118,452 in Section 37 funds from various developments to commission a permanent memorial to honour those who were lost or injured in the Yonge Street Tragedy in 2018.

The City has consulted with bereaved families and those injured on potential options and a vision for a future memorial. They shared a vision for a memorial that would celebrate the lives of those lost, but also serve as a beacon of hope, recognizing the strength and resilience of the North York community in coming together and healing following the tragedy. They expressed a desire for a place of quiet contemplation, to remember and reflect, and for a place to gather together for future commemorative events. The City also heard about the importance of taking the time to heal as a community before proceeding with a permanent memorial, which is in keeping with best practices from other jurisdictions.

In the coming months, City staff will review the technical feasibility of several potential locations for a memorial in the vicinity of Yonge Street between Mel Lastman Square and Olive Square Park. Once a location is determined, the City will launch a two-stage design competition for the memorial. The first stage will include a call for expressions of interest from

artists and artist teams. A jury of professional artists and community leaders will shortlist up to five artists to develop detailed design proposals, which will be shared with the broader community for feedback. The jury will consider the public's feedback and the design and aesthetic merit of each of the submissions before selecting the winning proposal. It is estimated that the winning proposal will be selected in early 2025, and that the construction of the memorial will be completed in approximately two years following the contract award, depending on the nature of the design. The funding released through this motion will be used for the competition process, location selection and memorial design, with additional funding to follow for construction.

Most importantly, the City will centre the voices of bereaved families, survivors, and community members through the process of developing the memorial. My office has formed a Community Advisory Committee that includes family members of those lost and other community leaders to provide guidance to City staff on this important project. Together, we will create a new landmark that celebrates the community, and stands as a reminder of our shared strength.

This motion is urgent as a show of commitment from the City in honouring the families of the victims at the 6th commemoration of the tragedy next week on April 23, 2024; as well as to permit Economic, Development and Culture team to progress to the next step in design process.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM17.17