

**To:**

Gina Ang  
Committee Administrator  
Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee  
gina.ang@toronto.ca

**From:**

May Mohamed  
Member, Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee

**Date:** November 20, 2025

RE: 2026 budget allocation for Social Development Plan Implementation

---

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Confronting Anti-Black Racism Advisory Committee recommends that:

1. City Council request the Mayor to consider, in the development of the 2026 budget, allocating ongoing yearly funding in the range of \$250,000–\$500,000 annually per neighbourhood to support neighbourhood associations or community-led coalitions to implement Social Development Plans.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Social Development Plans – Citywide Implementation**

City Council should consider, in partnership with local neighbourhood coalitions, developing and implementing Social Development Plans (SDPs) / Community Development Plans (CDPs) across all Toronto priority neighbourhoods by 2027.

### **Evidence-Based Success – Regent Park**

The demonstrated success of the Regent Park SDP—including outcomes identified in the FoSTRA White Paper—such as:

- Zero gun-related deaths in 2023,
- Increased youth employment and leadership,
- Strengthened community cohesion and service coordination,

- Resident-led initiatives advancing employment pathways, housing supports, wellness programs, and community-governance models.

These outcomes demonstrate SDPs/CDPs are proven tools for strengthening safety, well-being, and community resilience—particularly benefiting Black, Indigenous, and racialized residents.

### **FoSTRA Submission – Civil Society Support**

City Council review the submission from the 29 resident associations represented by the Federation of South Toronto Residents Associations (FoSTRA), circulated October 8, 2025, calling for a citywide SDP/CDP rollout as a cornerstone for community safety, social cohesion, and equitable neighbourhood development.

FoSTRA's October 2025 citywide submission—endorsed by 29 neighbourhood associations—identifies SDPs/CDPs as scalable strategies that improve neighbourhood safety, housing stability, youth employment, tenant advocacy and community-led governance. Neighbourhoods themselves are requesting a formal mechanism to coordinate this work.

### **Social Need & Economic Pressures**

Priority neighbourhoods with large Black and racialized populations are disproportionately affected by, housing unaffordability, youth unemployment, economic pressures including the impacts of U.S. tariffs and gaps in neighbourhood-level supports. SDPs/CDPs offer structured, long-term, neighbourhood-based strategies that address these systemic challenges.

### **Anti-Black Racism Intervention**

City Council recognize that SDPs/CDPs are core anti-Black racism interventions because they:

- Address neighbourhood-level disparities in safety, policing, housing access, and economic mobility;
- Build community capacity within Black and racialized neighbourhoods; and,
- Support resident-led and equity-based governance structures.

### **Global Framework Alignment**

As highlighted in the FoSTRA White Paper, SDPs/CDPs:

- Align with UN SDGs focused on inequality reduction, community resilience, and sustainable cities;
- Reflect the pillars of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent;
- Position Toronto as a leader in community-led urban equity planning;

Create opportunities for international partnerships through platforms such as the World Urban Pavilion.

### **Indicators & Accountability**

When developing SDPs City Council should take the following into consideration:

- Develop equity-based indicators and benchmarks to track SDP/CDP outcomes through an anti-Black racism lens, including race-disaggregated data related to youth opportunities, community safety, service access, and housing stability;
- Align tracking with the UN International Decade for People of African Descent (Recognition, Justice, Development), UN SDGs, and City equity frameworks;

### **BUDGET REQUEST**

City Council request the Mayor to consider, in the development of the 2026 budget, allocating sustainable funding in the range of \$250,000–\$500,000 annually per neighbourhood to support neighbourhood associations or coalitions leading Social Development Plan implementation.

Thank you for considering our recommendation to fund the development and implementation of SDPs in the 2026 Budget. This work will further support equitable development, promote community safety, and reduce the prevalence of Anti-Black Racism. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these recommendations further as the budget is developed.