

## City Council

### Notice of Motion

MM28.31	ACTION			Ward: 18
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### **Authority to Release Section 37 Funds for Cultural Recognition Street Naming for Little Iran - by Councillor Lily Cheng, seconded by Mayor Olivia Chow**

*\* 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 Lily Cheng, seconded by Mayor Olivia Chow, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the 2025-2034 Capital Budget and Plan for Transportation Services by \$5000.00 gross, \$0 debt, fully funded by Section 37 community benefits obtained from the development at 5840, 5868 and 5870 Yonge Street (Source Account: XR3026-3701294), to be utilized to fabricate and install street signage as “Little Iran” recognizing the Iranian cultural district for Yonge Street from Cummer Avenue/Drewry Avenue to Moore Park Avenue / Madawaska Avenue (Signs and Markings Asset Management, CTP725-01).
2. City Council request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with the local Councillor, to engage with local community organizations in Willowdale, including North York Arts, to create arts installations to recognize the Iranian cultural heritage of the area.

### **Summary**

On March 29, 2023, City Council unanimously passed Member Motion 2023.MM5.29, supporting the exploration of designating a northern portion of Yonge Street as a Cultural District in recognition of the area's vibrant Iranian community. However, no budget allocation was made in the Economic Development and Culture annual budget to advance this initiative. Given the cultural and historical significance of this corridor and in the absence of immediate budgetary support for the Cultural Districts Program, City Council directs Transportation Services to design and install street signage recognizing the Iranian community along this section of Yonge Street.

The proposed stretch of Yonge Street is home to Toronto's oldest Iranian settlement and serves as a thriving cultural and economic hub. This area hosts a wide range of Iranian businesses, including grocery stores, cafés, bakeries, print shops, media outlets, clinics, pharmacies, and art galleries, all of which contribute to the city's rich multicultural fabric.

Beyond its present-day significance, this corridor stands as a living testament to decades of Iranian migration to Toronto. The resilience and contributions of the Iranian community have

fostered a strong sense of belonging, making this district an integral part of the city's diverse landscape. Officially recognizing this area through street signage would honor the Iranian community's enduring contributions and celebrate the vibrancy of Iranian culture in Toronto.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM28.31