

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM32.27	ACTION			Ward: 13
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**Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds for Ward 13 2024
Participatory Budgeting Projects for Cabbagetown Neighbourhood -
New Street Benches for Cabbagetown BIA - by Councillor Chris Moise,
seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll**

** 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 Chris Moise, seconded by Councillor Shelley Carroll, recommends that:

1. City Council increase the 2025 Operating Budget for Non-Programs on a one-time basis by \$46,800 gross and \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 community benefits obtained from the developments at 187-193 Parliament Street (Source Account: XR3026-3701246), collected for streetscape improvements, for the purpose of forwarding funds to the Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area for the installation of 25 benches within their catchment, with specific locations outlined in Appendix A, (Cost Centre: NP2161).
2. City Council direct that the \$46,800 be forwarded to the Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area upon the signing of an Undertaking by the Cabbagetown Business Improvement Area to govern the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements.
3. City Council direct that the use of Section 37 community benefits be prominently recognized on the benches and in promotional materials, in consultation with the Ward Councillor.

Summary

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is a system of direct democracy where residents imagine how their neighbourhood could be improved, suggest potential ideas and then vote on how funds are spent to improve their community through capital projects.

Between April 12 and November 1, 2024, my office hosted online and in-person engagements with local residents and business improvement areas to crowdsource ideas. These ideas were then vetted for cost and feasibility with City staff and presented to the local community to vote on which projects they would like to see funded.

In the Cabbagetown, St. James Town, and Winchester Park neighbourhoods, nine projects supported by the local community that were feasible and fit within the allocated budget of \$750,000. One of the projects, the installation of 25 New Benches along the Parliament, Carlton, and Gerrard Main Streets, required additional review.

The release of funds for these projects will allow for locally supported capital projects to move forward in a timely manner.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM32.27

Appendix A: List of Participatory Budgeting Projects

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2025/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-257541.pdf>)