



## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Release of Section 37 Funds to Recognize and Commemorate the Cabbagetown Group Softball League

Moved by: Councillor Paula Fletcher

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Seconded by: Councillor Chris Moise

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#### SUMMARY:

For more than 50 years, the Cabbagetown Group Softball League (CGSL) has been providing a safe place for queer and trans people to play softball and build community.

The CGSL began in 1975 when a group of gay friends decided to play pickup softball each Sunday. In that first year they played wherever they could find an empty field and they did not think of themselves as a formal league.

In 1976 they picked their first home of Riverdale Park East, and their numbers began to grow. In 1977 they became a formal league and chose a name based on the neighborhood where many of the original members lived: Cabbagetown. Their current home is McCleary Park.

In August 1977, the CGSL played the first international queer softball game against a team in New York City. In 1979, the CGSL was a founding member of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA), now called International Pride Softball (IPride). In 1981 and 2000, the CGSL hosted the Gay Softball World Series.

These friends were seeking a safe place to engage in a friendly, competitive sport and to build bonds of 2SLGBTQ solidarity during an era of overt discrimination. The league soon meant more and went on to become a pillar of the queer community in Toronto. CGSL's impact should be formally recognized by the city with a plaque that will recognize their history as part of the 2SLGBTQ community in Toronto.

This motion seeks authorization to amend the 2026 Operating Budget of Heritage Toronto to fund the creation and installation of a plaque commemorating the history of the Cabbagetown Group Softball League in Toronto. Heritage Toronto estimates the entire project to cost \$10,000.00.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council increase the Council Approved 2026 Operating Budget for Heritage Toronto on a one-time basis by \$10,000.00 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 community benefits obtained from the development at 319 Carlaw Avenue, secured for local improvements (Source Account: XR3026-3700374), for the production and installation of a plaque commemorating the history of the Cabbagetown Group Softball League in Toronto. (Cost Centre: HG0001).

2. The location of the plaque will be determined in consultation with Cabbagetown Group Softball League to be either McCleary Park or Riverdale Park East.

June 24 & 25, 2026