

MOTION

Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds for protective Tree Fencing in Yorkville Village

Moved by: **Councillor** Saxe

Seconded by: Councillor Perks

SUMMARY:

Yorkville Village is a highly valued tourist attraction whose shops, restaurants, and festivals also serve a dense residential area and the entire Toronto community.

In cooperation with the Bloor Yorkville BIA, the city has installed 119 street trees in sidewalk pits on Bellair St., Cumberland St. (west of Bay), Yorkville Ave. (west of Bay), Hazelton Ave. (from Yorkville to approximately 40 Hazelton), Scollard St. (west of Bay) and Bay St. (from St. Mary to just north of Scollard). The trees contribute significantly to the beauty of the area and to making it attractive even in very hot weather. They also contribute to noise abatement.

Unfortunately, the health and survival of the trees is being damaged by heavy foot and vehicle traffic through the tree pits. The tree pits also create tripping hazards and can be unsightly and muddy.

The BIA wish to install decorative fences around the 119 tree pits, using s. 37 funds that were earmarked for greening the Yorkville area. This fencing would protect the trees and provide a unified aesthetic throughout the neighbourhood. The ABC Residents Association and the Greater Yorkville Residents Association support the request. Transportation Services has agreed to this request, in exchange for agreement by the BIA to maintain the enclosures at its own expense.

The funding request is for \$218,906 plus HST.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council increase the 2026 Operating Budget for Non-Program on a one-time basis by \$247,363 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 funds obtained from the development at 36,38-48 Yorkville Ave., 1263 Bay St., 55 Scollard St. (Source Account: XR3026-3700290) secured for greening initiatives in the Yorkville area, to be used by the Bloor Yorkville BIA to fabricate and install protective fencing for street trees in sidewalk pits on streets within the Bloor Yorkville BIA boundaries, which may include Bellair St., Cumberland St., Yorkville Ave., Hazelton Ave., Scollard St., and Bay St (Cost Centre: NP2161).
2. City Council direct that the \$247,363 be forwarded to the Bloor Yorkville BIA upon the signing of an Undertaking to the satisfaction of the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, that governs the use of the funds and the financial reporting

requirements and that the BIA enters into a Memorandum of Understanding with the General Manager of Transportation Services that governs the BIA's maintenance obligations, including, but not limited to, design, installation, repair and upkeep, all at no cost to the City, and any other additional or amended conditions to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Transportation Services, in consultation with the Executive Director, Environment, Climate, and Forestry and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.