

MOTION

Authorization to Release Section 37 Funds for capital upgrades at Karma Coop

Moved by: Councillor Saxe

Seconded by: Councillor Bravo

SUMMARY:

Torontonians are expressing considerable concern about the rising cost of food. Toronto's retail food supply is dominated by a small number of large grocery chains, but there are also some non-profit community food cooperatives. Co-ops maximize the affordability of quality food for members, while paying their staff a living wage, and building community through mutual aid, trading volunteer labour for reduced food costs, and eliminating commercial profit margins.

By [2026.MM.39.27](#), City Council requested the City Manager to report to the Economic and Community Development Committee in the second quarter of 2027 on options to support non-profit Toronto community food cooperatives, such as Karma Co-op. In the meantime, Karma Co-op has requested urgent s. 37 assistance to upgrade their garbage storage area. Karma Co-op is the only community food cooperative in Ward 11.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council increase the 2026 Operating Budget for Non-Program on a one-time basis by \$42,000 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by Section 37 funds obtained from the development at 316 Bloor Street West (Source Account: XR3026-3701257), secured for capital improvements to new or existing cultural and/or community space, to be used by Karma Co-op to upgrade their garbage storage area. (Cost Centre: NP2161).
2. City Council direct that the \$42,000 be forwarded to Karma Co-op upon the signing of an Undertaking that governs the use of the funds and the financial reporting requirements.