

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Exploring a Partnership with Jays Care Foundation to Establish a Jays Care Academy in Toronto

Moved by: Mayor

Olivia Chow

Seconded by: Councillor

Mike Colle

SUMMARY:

In 2025, the Toronto Blue Jays had a historic season that culminated in a run to the World Series Championship series.

The season not only united our city in a shared celebration of the team's accomplishments but also translated that momentum into significant fundraising success for the team's official philanthropic body, Jays Care Foundation.

Jays Care Foundation uses baseball to teach life skills, build community spaces, and help kids in marginalized communities through programs and grants that increase access to sport. Through its Field of Dreams program, Jays Care Foundation also provides grants to build, enhance, and refurbish safe local baseball diamonds and community infrastructure across Canada.

Using a portion of fundraising proceeds, leadership of the Jays Care Foundation has expressed an interest in partnering with the City of Toronto to deliver the Jays Care Academy, a purpose-built community recreation hub that expands access to baseball infrastructure in Toronto. This hub would include an indoor facility and up to four fields, used for foundation programming and community use.

This vision is modeled on other MLB Youth Academies, built in partnership between teams and cities across North America.

Reason for Urgency:

This motion would provide direction to City staff to begin exploring a potential partnership with Jays Care Foundation and identifying suitable City-owned sites before Council's summer recess, enabling this work to advance and discussions with the Foundation to proceed during the recess period.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council direct the Executive Director, Corporate Real Estate Management, in consultation with the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, the General Manager, Parks and Recreation, the Executive Director, Development Review and any other

relevant City Official(s), to work with CreateTO to identify potential City-owned sites for a Jays Care Academy, with an emphasis on locations outside of downtown core, and enter into discussions with the Jays Care Foundation to identify city building benefits to the City that would be secured, including those related to community access and public use, and to report to City Council through the appropriate Standing Committee at the earliest opportunity.

July 29 and 30, 2026