

CITY OF HAMILTON

NOTICE OF M O T I O N

Council: February 14, 2018

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR S. MERULLA.....

Acquisition of St. Helen Catholic Elementary School Property at 785 Britannia Avenue

WHEREAS, the St. Helen Catholic Elementary School at 785 Britannia Ave, Hamilton (“the Property”) was closed in 2009 by the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (hereafter HWCDSB), and has been operating as a neighbourhood hub for the McQuesten neighbourhood; and

WHEREAS, the HWCDSB has been generously subsidizing the operating cost of keeping the Property available for community use with the Hamilton Community Foundation and the City of Hamilton since 2009; and

WHEREAS, the McQuesten Neighbourhood Planning Team has been active for over a decade and using the Property as a resource centre while developing the McQuesten Urban Farm on an adjacent piece of land; and

WHEREAS, De Dwa Da Dehs Nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre has expressed interest in relocating their services to the Property, and is currently engaged with the Ministry of Health Capital process for redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg, the Indigenous early years and head start service provider, has obtained funding to support relocating their services to the Property; and

WHEREAS, De Dwa Da Dehs Nye>s and Niwasa have expressed an interest in working with the McQuesten Planning Team and other partners to create the *Biindigen Community Hub* (Anishnaabe for Welcome! Come In!); and

WHEREAS, the *Biindigen Community Hub* will serve as an Indigenous “one-stop” shop for services as well as a sustainable, long-term resource centre for McQuesten and the surrounding neighbourhoods; and

WHEREAS, such a development is consistent with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action by creating a model of reconciliation where Indigenous and non-Indigenous service providers come together to provide a bundle of services and resources to improve the social determinants of health for all people in the community;

WHEREAS, De Dwa Da Dehs Nye>s was one of four projects provincially to receive funding in February 2018 from the Government of Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure's Surplus Property Transition Initiative, which was created to promote the development of community hubs;

WHEREAS, the HWCDSB circulated a Proposal to Sell Real Property for the Property, requiring the delivery of a letter of intent within 90 days of receipt of the Proposal as per the regulation; and,

WHEREAS, the Property has been identified as being of interest for potential acquisition for a City-wide use as identified by the Ward 4 Councillor;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That staff be directed to acquire St. Helen Catholic Elementary School Property at 785 Britannia Avenue, Hamilton from the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB) for the purpose of disposing of the land for the creation of the Biindigen Community Hub;
- (b) That staff be authorized and directed to complete due diligence work in preparation of the acquisition of the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board ("HWCDSB") lands located at 785 Britannia Avenue, Hamilton;
- (c) That the Real Estate Section of the Planning and Economic Development Department be authorized and directed to present a bona-fide offer to purchase the property located at 785 Britannia Avenue, Hamilton to the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HWCDSB) on terms and conditions deemed appropriate to the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development;
- (d) That following successful acquisition the Real Estate Section of the Planning and Economic Development Department be authorized and directed to sell the property at 785 Britannia Avenue, Hamilton to De Dwa Da Dehs Nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre on the terms and conditions that the City will be fully reimbursed for all City's costs and fees associated with acquisition and disposition of the property and on such other terms and conditions deemed appropriate to the General Manager of Planning and Economic Development;
- (e) That all costs related to the due diligence, acquisition, and disposition of the property at 785 Britannia Avenue, Hamilton be authorized and funded from the Best Start Reserve and that all net proceeds of sale be returned to the same account;
- (f) That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute all necessary documents in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.