



Councillor James Pasternak



Ward 10

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Date: September 17, 2015

To: Community Development and Recreation Committee Members

From: Councillor James Pasternak

Re: Updates to the TO Prosperity - Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy

Recommendations:

That the following recommendations be added to the TO Prosperity - Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy:

1. Working in partnership with postsecondary institutions and other stakeholders advance with the Toronto District School Board, pursuant to the TDSB Alternative Schools policy (PR.584 CUR) a high school that specializing in public administration, related disciplines and other frontline careers to operate as a pathway to a career in municipal government at the City of Toronto. That consideration be given to housing such a school in the Old City Hall, when vacated by existing court offices.
2. Through community and private sector partnerships expand the personal free tax preparation clinics in areas of high poverty to ensure that low income residents leverage and maximize all tax credits and deductions under the federal Income Tax Act and Ontario's tax regimes.
3. Working through Toronto Employment and Social services, require each division, in the City of Toronto to expand job fairs, whenever possible, in our Strong and Emerging Neighbourhoods and publicize such.
4. Hire for a period of not less than three years a Director of Poverty Reduction to implement the recommendations of the Poverty Reduction Strategy.
5. Identify based on existing studies medical conditions that are prevalent in low income or racialized groups and identify "code blue" strategies that can be implemented on a local basis for early detection, education and medical intervention, including EMS and fire response to heart attacks and strokes.
6. Build a student nutrition program to be offered from City of Toronto Recreation facilities in Strong and Emerging Neighbourhoods outside of the standard school year.
7. Expand and support of Foodshare's Mobile Good Food Truck Market to bring fresh produce to low income areas that are in "food deserts".
8. Create or designate and furnish quiet work spaces in Toronto Community Housing buildings for students to do their homework and/or distance education. The program could include a mentoring and/or volunteer tutoring program for at risk youth in TCHC buildings with the local high school and universities.

9. Build a supportive corridor – effective seamless linkages between local schools and City of Toronto destinations that would include but not be restricted to recreation programs with a special needs lense, mental wellness supports, nutrition program and homework and study supports.
10. Work with local school boards, to develop an employment pipeline to better connect students in trades pathways and specialized programs such as plumbing, electrical, HVAC, carpentry, and masonry with employers and leverage the City of Toronto social procurement policy and strategy to advance.

Sincerely,

James Pasternak
Councillor, Ward 10
Chair, Community Development and Recreation Committee