
BRIEFING NOTE: [EX12.2 - Update on Hosting FIFA World Cup 2026](#)**March 19th, 2024**

While the hosting of the FIFA World Cup in 2026 is an exciting opportunity for our city and residents, significant public money is being spent and we need to make sure that the games have a lasting positive impact on Toronto. New information is emerging about FIFA's attempts to avoid labour laws, taxes, and other critical necessary elements that would ensure the games benefit residents instead of just big corporations. We also learned that previous direction on FIFA and community benefits has not been followed through, as promised. It is clear that **Council must act quickly to build a positive legacy, protect workers** and avoid escalating the potentially negative impacts on communities.

To do this, we are asking Council to:

Follow through on the July 19, 2022 motion #1 under [EX34.8](#) on a Community Benefit Plan for Toronto's participation in the 2026 World Cup, which included a report back in the first quarter of 2023, and which directed Staff to include the following requirements:

- a. **Develop a Community Benefits Plan** to ensure decent work opportunities for local residents and equity-deserving groups,
- b. Implement a **Supply Chain Diversity Policy** to include local businesses,
- c. Ensure that **governance includes equity-deserving groups**,
- d. Explore opportunities for a **Legacy Fund** to support recreational programs, and
- e. Advance the goals of **TransformTO** including through public transit.

We request that if barriers to implement the 2022 motion are identified by staff, the City Manager be directed to report back with options and tools to overcome them.

In addition, we call for Council to:

- Protect our laws and work with other levels of government and with FIFA to:
 - Adhere and comply with all **labour laws** including the Ontario Employment Standards Act, Ontario Employment Protection for Foreign Nationals Act, the Canada Labour Code, the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act and all applicable employment protections and programs.
 - Operate within the International Labour Organization's (ILO) **Decent Work** Agenda framework, and comply with the Toronto Fair Wage Policy

- Require that FIFA-related work be done under **collective agreements** wherever possible.
- **Demonstrate environmental leadership** by:
 - Installing **RapidTO** on Dufferin to serve Exhibition Place, and making other lasting transit improvements as appropriate, and
 - Following the lead of other cities with **zero-waste** events by piloting programs for reusable cups in stadiums and effective organics and waste collection.
- Create a **safe environment** for the games and vulnerable people by:
 - Preventing the clearing of encampments, and instead direct city staff to work with residents in providing affordable and suitable housing options and shelter spaces;
 - Rejecting any policing and security that puts undocumented people at risk of deportation and to reaffirm Toronto's status as a sanctuary city.

All of these actions will boost our local economy, protect workers and bring lasting benefits to Toronto residents, who are ultimately shouldering the significant financial burden to make these six games happen.

We ask that staff return with a status update at the June 2024 Council meeting to ensure that the city is on the right track to fulfilling its commitments to a FIFA World Cup plan that will bring good local jobs, boost local economies, and build infrastructure and community improvements which can be enjoyed for decades to come.

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