

# City waives encroachment fees for Shenkman Arts Centre developer

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Ottawa City Council waived more than \$200,000 in encroachment fees for developers of the Shenkman Arts Centre project late last month.

On October 23rd, council unanimously decided to eliminate \$223,000 in fees being charged to the east end arts centre's P3 partner, Forum Equity Partners Incorporated, one day after the city's corporate services and environmental committee had approved the motion, which was put forward by Innes city councillor Rainer Bloess.

The east end councillor said the motion only made sense because in the initial agreement between the city and Forum, the company would have to be aware of any

changes to the project that could tack on additional fees.

"It only made sense to do this," said Bloess. "Rather than putting the project into a tougher financial situation, and having them (Forum) cut corners and try to make up the money, this was the right thing to do."

The city decided it wanted a different plan for the roadway for the project, and as it shifted along Centrum Boulevard, encroachment fees kicked in.

Bloess said that if no P3 partner was involved, the city would not charge itself the additional fees.

The motion also called for a reimburse-

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Ottawa City Council unanimously waived enroachment fees of more than \$200,000 for Forum Equity, the developers for the Shekman Arts Centre project.