



By email to buc@toronto.ca

January 29, 2016

Budget Committee
Toronto City Hall,
100 Queen St. W., 10th floor,
West Tower, Toronto,
ON M5H 2N2

Dear Sirs/Madams:

RE: 2016 Toronto Budget – Entertainment District

On Tuesday, January 19, 2016 certain residents in the Entertainment district held a meeting (the “**meeting**”) at the Hudson condominium to discuss recent safety incidents in the Entertainment district community. The meeting was attended by Brent Gilliard representing the Office of Councillor Joe Cressy, Scerena Officer from Toronto Crisis Response, officers of the Toronto Police, Janice Solomon being the Executive Director of the Toronto Entertainment District BIA as well as members of the Board of Directors and management of the Hudson (438 King St. West), Glas Condominiums (25 Oxley St) and Charlie Condos (8 Charlotte St).

We are writing this letter on behalf of the residents in each of the Hudson, Glas and Charlie condominiums to request that the City allocate into the 2016 Budget financial provisions for much needed services in the Entertainment District. The impetus for our request is the increasing amount of crime in the Entertainment District; the most recent incidents include the stray gunfire that penetrated two of our condominiums Glas and Charlie on December 7, 2015, a drive by shooting resulting in a death on December 11, 2015, and the gunfight in the area of Bathurst and Niagara streets on January 24, 2016.

With the explosion of condominium developments together with increased residential density, it has not gone unnoticed to us that, with that grows the City’s residential and commercial tax collection from the Entertainment District. To give you some perspective, consider that the Hudson has **280** residential units, the Glas has **163** residential units and Charlie has **314** residential units.

hudson
A CONDOMINIUM COMMUNITY



It is important that with the growth, our tax dollars are reinvested into the Entertainment District to ensure the longevity and stability of the residential market and the safety and security of the residents who live and work in the City. If we allow the Entertainment District to continue on its current course of violence without investing in services to counteract same, the Entertainment District will evolve to be known for its night life only and its appeal as a community where professionals and families choose to work/play/live will diminish.

The services desired in the Entertainment District were identified at the meeting and they include:

- public surveillance cameras in the area as the buildings are predominately residential and do not have street facing cameras. We have learned that if our streets (i.e. King St and Charlotte St) had street facing surveillance cameras in place, such evidence would be helpful to the Police in regards to investigating the gunfire on December 7, 2015;
- increased police resources available to patrol on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights in the Entertainment District; and
- support for certain units that focus on crime (i.e. Tavis).

We understand that the Police have several initiatives in place to help support the Entertainment District however we believe that more can be done by the City. **As a start, we would like the City to include in its 2016 Budget an amount to allow for additional Police resources in the Entertainment District during key periods.**

We would also like the City to consider installing either new police surveillance cameras or relocate existing police surveillance cameras to the King/Charlotte/Oxley/Spadina area of the Entertainment District.

Just consider the following incidents that have happened in the King/ Charlotte/Oxley/Spadina area in 2015:

- Shooting outside Bloke nightclub on King St. West (June 2015);
- 3 men stabbed outside nightclub on King St. W, west of Spadina (Sept 2015);
- 31-year old man assaulted, beaten and stabbed by 8 men in the area around 510 King West (near Spadina area) (November 2015); and
- Gunfire on Charlotte Street (December 2015).

We at the Hudson, Glas and Charlie condominiums want to ensure that our community remains a vibrant, livable and safe community and we strongly believe that to ensure that this happens, our tax dollars must be reinvested in services that not only benefit the community but ultimately the City and the tourists and visitors to the Entertainment District.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further.

hudson
A CONDOMINIUM COMMUNITY



Regards,

The Hudson

Virgile Rostand, President, Director
Angela Lin, Director
Dave Collins, Director
Joan Gold, Director
Sherrie Graat, Director
Matt Smith, Communications Committee
Kim Garner, Communications Committee

Charlie Condominiums

Al Daimee, Director
Mark Kimel, Director
Dennis Lagman, Director

Glas Condominiums

Matthew Godycki, Director
Reena Chaudhary, Director
Suzanne Harrison, Director

Icon Property Management

Kelly Jennings, Senior Executive Property Manager
George Zgheib, Senior Property Manager
Elisa Ionadi, Office Administrator

Cc Councillor Joe Cressy Cressy@toronto.ca
Janice Solomon, Executive Director Toronto Entertainment District BIA
jsolomon@torontoed.com
Mark Saunders, Chief of Police