



November 16, 2017

Dear Councillor Thompson,

As Chair of the City of Toronto's Economic Development Committee please receive this official letter as correspondence of the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Area's (TABIA) support and appreciation for Economic Development Committee Report **ED25.6 - Potential Policies and Programs to Support Toronto's Retail Areas**.

TABIA has been working relentlessly along with our BIAs located along the Eglinton corridor to advocate on behalf of the many small businesses struggling with the effects of long term construction.

Our association feels that this report is a step in the right direction and if approved will ultimately mitigate the pressure these small businesses are facing on Eglinton Avenue. We believe it is time that a city as innovative as Toronto takes the initiative to become the first in the nation to establish some sort of direct financial assistance program to help aid businesses dealing with issues such as long term construction, something that is out of their control.

The report outlines the economic, cultural, and social importance of our City's retail main streets. Small independent retail businesses are critical to the on-going vibrancy and economic viability that the City of Toronto is known for. We hope that your committee agrees and approves of this initiative to bring forth to the rest of council. TABIA looks forward to working with staff in further developing this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kiru", written in a cursive style.

John Kiru, Executive Director

TABIA