



Ontario School of Ballet

...we're about more than dance!

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November 3, 2021

Toronto City Council
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attn: Marilyn Toft, Council Secretariat

Delivered by email to: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Re: PH27.2 – Zoning Conformity for Official Plan Employment Areas – Phase 1 Final Report and Phase 2 Update

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf of the **Ontario School of Ballet & Related Arts**, I wish to express our concern and alarm with respect to the report on Zoning By-Law conformity for employment zones in the Official Plan, specifically the proposed removal of permissions for bingo halls and related uses in the Former City of Etobicoke Zoning By-law (Attachment 9 to the Final Report).

Our charity is one of 66 local charities that rely on Delta Bingo and Gaming St. Clair, to support our organization in the Toronto community. Without that support we will simply not be able to function.

The Ontario School of Ballet & Related Arts (OSB) was founded in 1979, to provide high quality dance instruction for students of all ages, in an inspirational environment. The school is committed to nurturing students from recreational to pre-professional levels of dance, by developing skills through expert programming. OSB is one of Canada's leading dance training institutions. All classes are taught by expert accredited dance educators. The school is committed to fostering the development of disciplined, self-confident students, who will grow from their training, whether their goal is to achieve a career in dance, or apply the knowledge they have gained to other professions. OSB's mission statement is: *To provide a consummate education in the art of dancing, an education that imparts self-discipline, dedication, creativity, physical confidence and appreciation of culture through the sheer joy of movement.*

OSB relies on the support and funding from Delta Bingo and Gaming St. Clair to continue to offer a high quality dance education to the Toronto community.

The last 18 months have been very challenging for everyone, and our organization is no exception. We have struggled to survive with very little funding as Delta St. Clair was closed for 420 days over the course of the pandemic. Now, due to a proposed expropriation from the City of Toronto and Metrolinx, the Delta St. Clair location will have to move to another site. The new site (at 360 Evans Ave.) is currently zoned to allow for a Bingo Hall. Under the proposed By-law amendment that permission would be revoked.

As you can appreciate, finding an appropriate venue at a reasonable price in the current real estate environment is a real challenge. We are looking forward to the move to 360 Evans Ave. and urge you not to remove this permission and allow us to re-locate as planned with the current permissions.

Based on the concerns identified above, we respectfully request that the Draft By-laws and report, specifically as it applies to the use of employment lands for bingo halls, is removed entirely or in the very least referred back to City Planning staff for dedicated public consultation and review. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request, and we look forward to further discussions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Sarah Lockett
Executive Director
Ontario School of Ballet & Related Arts
1133 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto, ON M6E 1B1