

From: [Cecilia Serafina](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Cc: [Councillor Nunziata](#); [Mayor Tory](#); [Coko Galore](#); [Delta Bingo St. Clair Sponsor's Association](#); [Councillor Layton](#); [Councillor Bailao](#)
Subject: PH27.2 – Zoning Conformity for Official Plan Employment Areas – Phase 1 Final Report and Phase 2 Update
Date: November 4, 2021 4:42:53 PM

Tuesday, November 9, 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 Bad Dog Theatre Company, 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.

Bad Dog Theatre produces live, improvised comedy, and teaches classes and drop in workshops to youth and adults, both in person and online. Delta St. Clair's funding helped us get our first start as a venue, bar, and training hub. When the theatre closed due to the pandemic in 2020, our revenue went to zero. Many artists relying on stages for their income became unemployed. With Delta's support, we were able to bring our brand of live improvised theatre into the homes of our community, by creating our own streaming channel, Bad Dog Comedy TV, on YouTube. We used Delta St. Clair's support to pay our actors and directors so they could continue producing and sharing art, in Toronto and around the world. As we begin to look for new, accessible spaces to rebuild our theatre and community, we will need this support now more than ever.

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,

Cecilia Serafina

Operations Coordinator

Coko Galore

Artistic & Managing Director

Bad Dog Theatre Company



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@BadDogTheatre | @BadDogComedyClasses

*Voted Toronto's Best Small Theatre Company (2017),
Runner-Up Best Small Theatre Company (2018)
& Best Comedy Club (2018) by Now Magazine Readers!*