

November 15, 2013

Mayor Leffingwell and Councillor Martinez,

I understand that the recent media attention in regard to Mayor Ford has raised some concern among the media in Austin in regard to our Music City Alliance.

The incidents involving Mayor Ford are both unacceptable and extremely regrettable. This note is to advise and assure you that Toronto City Council is seized with this matter and has taken action to ensure all matters of city business are considered and dealt with appropriately.

Specifically in regard to the Music City Alliance Agreement, it is important to note while the formal document was signed by Mayor Leffingwell and Mayor Ford, it is an Agreement between the City of Toronto and the City of Austin. In fact the Austin - Toronto Music City Alliance was unanimously supported by Toronto City Council.

At its meeting on July 16-19, 2013, Toronto City Council adopted the following recommendation:

"City Council endorse the Austin-Toronto Music City Alliance and direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to report back to the October 2013 meeting of the Economic Development Committee with the framework and terms of reference of the Music City Alliance."

This decision was carried unanimously by a vote of 40 – 0 (with 5 Members absent).

The Economic Development Committee meeting scheduled for October 2013 was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. The Staff Report on the framework and terms of reference for the Music City Alliance was deferred to the following meeting of the Committee which will take place next week on November 22, 2013. As Chair of the Economic Development Committee, I am confident that there will once again be strong support for the Alliance and see no reason that our relationship will not continue and flourish.

We look forward to working with you, Austin City Council, and staff to establish a formal dialogue and create meaningful trade partnerships to the mutual benefit of both cities as contemplated by our Agreement.

Sincerely,

Michael Thompson
Chair, Economic Development and Culture Committee
Vice-Chair, Toronto Police Services Board
Councillor, Scarborough Centre
Ward 37