

December 7, 2015

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Council:

**Subject: December 9, 2015 - City Council Agenda Item: TE 12.108 - Direction of City Planning Staff to Amend Section 37 Provisions for 81-87 Peter Street**

In the past decade, the Entertainment District has been dramatically transformed by a scale of development unparalleled in North America. With over 40 active development applications, this transformation is set to continue for many years.

While the Entertainment District has assumed a disproportionately large percentage of all growth across the City and generated an estimated \$45 million dollars in Section 37 funds, its public realm has suffered. Streets, sidewalks, parks and open spaces have deteriorated, overburdened by an exploding population, torn apart by continuous construction and deprived of public funding for maintenance.

The BIA has invested millions of dollars in annual public realm improvements including: planter bike lane barricades, tree grates, litter/poster/graffiti removal, district-wide flower program, maintenance of public parkettes and boulevards and much more. The BIA is also committed to the long-term investment of maintenance of the future John Street Cultural Corridor. We cannot afford to take on the burden of crumbling infrastructure.


The BIA has been a tireless advocate for good planning and design and has successfully advocated for public realm and built form improvement agreements that help the district adjust to the level of growth it is experiencing.

Toronto City Council is now being asked to redirect Section 37 funds secured in the Entertainment District a number of years ago during an earlier period of especially torrid and disruptive local development. The redirection of funds is to go toward a project well outside of the Entertainment District boundaries, again depriving the area's 15,000 residents and numerous businesses of a public realm that meets even basic accessibility and safety standards.

A motion before Council is asking that a portion of \$1.3 million, negotiated with the developer of 81-87 Peter Street and currently allocated to streetscape improvements within the East King Spadina Precinct, be redirected to a proposed YMCA facility in the West King Spadina Precinct. This is a much needed facility, but is located well beyond Peter Street and our BIA boundary. Peter Street is buckling under the pressure of years of construction and, like most of the district's streets, is in a state of serious disrepair with dead trees and broken narrow sidewalks.

We, The Entertainment District BIA, ask you to maintain Council's commitment to using Section 37 funds for their intended purpose - to respond to growth in population and density in the vicinity of the development. 81-87 Peter Street should support much needed improvements to the surrounding public realm.

Sincerely,



Janice Solomon  
Executive Director  
Toronto Entertainment District BIA  
[jsolomon@torontoed.com](mailto:jsolomon@torontoed.com)