July 8, 2015

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

Subject: Authorization to Approve Elm Street Summer Parklet Program

SUMMARY:

In June, 2015, the Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area (DYBIA) is proposing a parklet and greening project within the limits of existing street parking spaces along the south side of Elm Street between Yonge Street and Bay Street. Parklets are sidewalk extensions that provide space and amenities for local businesses to operate patios that otherwise would not possess the frontage to do so, as well as opportunities for residents to stop, sit, and rest while taking in the activities of the street. Parklets have been successfully installed in cities as varied as San Francisco, Phoenix, New York, Philadelphia, and Montreal, and were first installed in Toronto on Church Street in the summer of 2013. This initiative is intended to improve the general pedestrian and retail experience between July and October 2015.

The Downtown Yonge BIA supports this initiative as an important step in helping the local business community redefine itself by establishing a bold new summertime experience. By repurposing existing street parking spots into vibrant, usable retail space, the Downtown Yonge BIA is supporting the creation of new commercial opportunities for its membership and stimulating economic activity in the downtown core. All costs and insurance requirements associated with the parklets are to be borne by the DYBIA and its agents.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Approve an exemption from Municipal Code Chapter 743, Streets and Sidewalks to permit within the Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area, parklets in the eastbound, south curb lane of Elm Street, within existing street parking spaces in front of the 15 and 17 Elm Street, between the dates of July 18, 2015 and October 31, 2015 including set-up and take-down.

2. Direct the General Manager of Transportation Services and the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards to issue a street occupation permit from July 18,
2015 to October 31, 2015 in the eastbound south curb lane of Elm Street in front of 15 and 17 Elm Street to facilitate the implementation of parklets and a complimentary greening strategy, subject to terms and conditions to the satisfaction of the General Manager of Transportation Services.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam
Ward 27, Toronto Centre-Rosedale