

November 25, 2016

Economic Development Committee

Re: ED16.10 Development of Night-Time Economy

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

As Toronto continues to grow and increase in population, so too does its night-time activities. Many of our regulatory systems for alcohol service, licensing of establishments and noise considerations were established in a different era and should be updated to meet all current expectations. An era where the concerns unique to mixed-use neighbourhoods were addressed by locating music venues in the "entertainment district", where they could operate with little impact to residents.

In today's Toronto, music venues are no longer contained to specific areas and that is a positive evolution as music-based businesses grow with the economy. The proliferation throughout the City, occasionally creates conflict with local residents due to late-night operations, mass patron egress, public order and other factors. The work that staff will undertake to examine these issues and, eventually, provide suggested recommendations is both timely and necessary.

The night-time economy is already an evolving reality. It sustains many livelihoods and makes a significant contribution to the cultural experience and identity of Toronto. Growing this economy responsibly will require consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders in order to ensure that any changes to licensing, transportation, alcohol service hours, and special event regulation are undertaken with the support of the communities in which music venues operate. Safety concerns must be examined from multiple perspectives. Creating successful and community welcoming environment is vitally important to maintaining and expanding the venue options for music-based businesses.

With the above in mind, should item ED16.10 be approved by the Economic Development Committee, we recommend the following amendment:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, be requested to consult with the Liquor Licensing Task Force; the Noise Bylaw Working Group; the Chief Medical Officer; and any other relevant stakeholders, including resident and neighbourhood groups, who may be impacted by:

- a. the extension of licensing hours;*
- b. licensing type;*
- c. late night transportation;*
- d. community safety; and*
- e. special events.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kristyn Wong-Tam

City Councillor, Ward 27, Toronto Centre-Rosedale

Joe Cressy

City Councillor, Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina

Mike Layton

City Councillor, Ward 19, Trinity Spadina

Pam McConnell

City Councillor, Ward 28, Toronto Centre-Rosedale