

From: [Angela Lin](#)
To: [Economic Development Committee](#)
Subject: Fwd: Comments on Development of Night-time Economy proposal
Date: Monday, November 28, 2016 3:58:10 PM
Attachments: [2016 11 25 Letter to EDC.pdf](#)
[2015 12 07 letter to Joe Cressy re community safety.pdf](#)
[2016 01 28 letter to Toronto Budget Committee.pdf](#)
[2016 01 22 Community Safety Meeting summary.pdf](#)

Hello,

I am forwarding the below email and correspondence to the Committee for their consideration. I acknowledge having received Councillor Thompson's email today referencing the below.

Thanks

Angela Lin

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Angela Lin** <angelawlin@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Nov 27, 2016 at 8:39 PM

Subject: Comments on Development of Night-time Economy proposal

To: councillor_thompson@toronto.ca, councillor_cressy@toronto.ca

Cc: mayor_tory@toronto.ca, councillor_carroll@toronto.ca, councillor_mford@toronto.ca,
councillor_nunziata@toronto.ca, councillor_crisanti@toronto.ca,
councillor_layton@toronto.ca, councillor_kelly@toronto.ca,
councillor_fragedakis@toronto.ca, councillor_perks@toronto.ca

Hello,

We are residents in the Trinity Spadina ward and represent three (3) condominium towers at the NE corner of King/Spadina. We respectfully request that our attached letter be reviewed at your November 28 meeting in respect of item ED16.10: Development of Night-time Economy proposal.

Thank you

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November 26, 2016

Economic Development Committee
Attention: Michael Thompson, Chair
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: Development of Night-time Economy

Dear Sir/Madame:

We are members of the Board of Directors of the Hudson (438 King St. West), Glas Condominiums (25 Oxley St) and Charlie Condos (8 Charlotte St), being three residential condominiums on the north east corner of King and Spadina, and are writing on behalf of our residents, owners and tenants.

We are writing to express our concerns in regards to the proposal to extend licensing hours; licensing types; late night transportation and special events. In fact, we oppose any action that makes a case for such proposals.

It is our view that the expansion of licenses (including liquor) will not bring the type of economic growth and long term financial stability to the city, and certainly not the quality of life that the existing tax paying residents are entitled to. Even changes to licensing types, whether it is new applications, renewals or transfers, license upgrades, will undoubtedly cause nightlife expansion, an increased density of bars and applications for changes to existing establishments.

In the past few years we have seen the transformation of the King/Spadina neighbourhood. While we are pleased with the gentrification of this once industrial area and the cultural development, we have also seen a transformation in the lounges, bars and nightlife and we have not only observed, but lived the increase in disturbances, crime, drugs, and violent nightlife. So severe was our concern on this issue that our three buildings held a community safety meeting in January 2016. I enclose correspondence for your reference.

Our very own NE corner of King/Spadina where there are now 7 residential condominiums has experienced gun shots fired, numerous noise complaints, assaults and public intoxication. For example, at the Charlie building, stray bullets were fired into their lobby shattering glass and narrowly missing the security guard. We regularly have intoxicated people creating noise disturbances late at night through to the early morning, urinating in our back alleyways and flower planters, and attempting to sleep in our lobbies. People walk openly in the streets smoking marijuana and drinking. If this were your neighbourhood we ask: would you extend licensing hours and allow this to continue? In January 2016 the Toronto Police advised us that noise disturbances are a low priority issue for the Police as they are focusing on preventing crime and violence, however, the City, Police and our local BIA have been unsuccessful to date in addressing these issues.

Under the current licensing and regulatory scheme we are dealing with problematic establishments, criminal activity and the potential endangerment of public safety. It is our position that to allow a further expansion of the licensing practices to further develop a night-time economy without first addressing

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the regulation, enforcement and the current conditions is a slippery slope. We respectfully request that this proposal be denied and that EDC instead consider options for responsible nightlife expansion as a means to promote the growth of the City of Toronto. You must not ignore the thousands of residents who have built their life downtown. We are not against urban entrepreneurialism and economic growth; but we are against the destruction of our neighbourhood and community.

Respectfully,

The Boards of Directors of each of:

The Hudson

Glas Condominiums

Charlie Condominiums

Cc: Joe Cressy, Councillor
Icon Property Management
LLTF members
Janice Solomon
Mayor John Tory

12/7/2015



The Board of Directors
The Hudson
438 King Street West,
Toronto, Ontario M5V 3T9

Councillor Joe Cressy
100 Queen Street West, Suite C50
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Councillor_Cressy@toronto.ca

Dear Councillor Cressy

We are writing to you in light of the most recent shooting that occurred in your Ward, and in the backyard of our home at 438 King Street West (<http://www.citynews.ca/2015/12/07/gunfire-erupts-in-entertainment-district/>). Although fortunately the media report indicates that no one was injured, this is just another example of the rising incidents of crime and violence in the neighborhood. Some other reported incidents include¹:

- Break-and-enter in the King Street West and Spadina Ave area where several pieces of computer equipment were stolen (October 2015);
- Police sized guns, dynamite and drugs while executing a search warrant in the King St. W. and Spadina Ave. area (October 2015);
- 3 men stabbed outside nightclub on King St. W, west of Spadina (Sept 2015);
- Man stabbed at King Street W. and Brant St (Nov 2015);
- 31-year old man assaulted, beaten and stabbed by 8 men in the area around 510 King West (near Spadina area) (November 2015);
- Shooting outside Bloke nightclub on King St. West (June 2015)

In fact, in a recent issue of Toronto Life magazine, they report the *densely packed condoland south of the Gardiner, and the boozy circus that is the King West entertainment district* as the “most dangerous neighbourhood”²

We realize that it is an individual choice to live in the downtown core, and with that choice comes some sacrifices (traffic, noise, etc.). However, what we do not believe is acceptable to residents and the taxpayers in our city is to accept crime, including increasing gun and knife

¹ torontopolice.on.ca/newreleases

² <http://torontolife.com/crime/>

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violence. Keeping the residents of Toronto safe should be a key priority for legislators, law enforcement, and the City of Toronto.

Many of our residents elected you in the last election and support your initiatives to “build better neighbourhoods, expand and improve public green spaces, and make life in downtown Toronto more equitable”. As such, we would like your support to ensure that this issue gets the attention required to make King West a safe neighborhood for our families.

We would like to see more police presence on the streets and in the nightclub areas. We are directly across from *Bloke* nightclub which has been the scene for more than one violent crime this year.

We would like the City to consider other public safety objectives to supplement law enforcement such as:

- mobilizing the community (patrol, advocacy);
- conveying information (awareness);
- assisting and advising businesses and condo communities to find ways to alter their physical environments to reduce opportunities for crime;
- advocating the enforcement of the laws that punish those that commit crimes in our neighborhood;
- and concentrating attention on problem areas (such as nightclubs).

On behalf of all the persons who live and frequent the King West area, please do what you can to protect us from increasing crime and help us build a better and safer King West neighbourhood.

Yours Truly

The Board of Directors
By Virgile Rostand on behalf of The Board of Directors,
The Hudson Condominium

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By email to buc@toronto.ca

January 28, 2016

Budget Committee
Toronto City Hall,
100 Queen St. W., 10th floor,
West Tower, Toronto,
ON M5H 2N2

Dear Sirs/Madams:

RE: 2016 Toronto Budget – Entertainment District

On Tuesday, January 19, 2016 certain residents in the Entertainment district held a meeting (the “**meeting**”) at the Hudson condominium to discuss recent safety incidents in the Entertainment district community. The meeting was attended by Brent Gilliard representing the Office of Councillor Joe Cressy, Scerena Officer from Toronto Crisis Response, officers of the Toronto Police, Janice Solomon being the Executive Director of the Toronto Entertainment District BIA as well as members of the Board of Directors and management of the Hudson (438 King St. West), Glas Condominiums (25 Oxley St) and Charlie Condos (8 Charlotte St).

We are writing this letter on behalf of the residents in each of the Hudson, Glas and Charlie condominiums to request that the City allocate into the 2016 Budget financial provisions for much needed services in the Entertainment District. The impetus for our request is the increasing amount of crime in the Entertainment District; the most recent incidents include the stray gunfire that penetrated two of our condominiums Glas and Charlie on December 7, 2015, a drive by shooting resulting in a death on December 11, 2015, and the gunfight in the area of Bathurst and Niagara streets on January 24, 2016.

With the explosion of condominium developments together with increased residential density, it has not gone unnoticed to us that, with that grows the City’s residential and commercial tax collection from the Entertainment District. To give you some perspective, consider that the Hudson has **280** residential units, the Glas has **163** residential units and Charlie has **314** residential units.

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It is important that with the growth, our tax dollars are reinvested into the Entertainment District to ensure the longevity and stability of the residential market and the safety and security of the residents who live and work in the City. If we allow the Entertainment District to continue on its current course of violence without investing in services to counteract same, the Entertainment District will evolve to be known for its night life only and its appeal as a community where professionals and families choose to work/play/live will diminish.

The services desired in the Entertainment District were identified at the meeting and they include:

- public surveillance cameras in the area as the buildings are predominately residential and do not have street facing cameras. We have learned that if our streets (i.e. King St and Charlotte St) had street facing surveillance cameras in place, such evidence would be helpful to the Police in regards to investigating the gunfire on December 7, 2015;
- increased police resources available to patrol on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights in the Entertainment District; and
- support for certain units that focus on crime (i.e. Tavis).

We understand that the Police have several initiatives in place to help support the Entertainment District however we believe that more can be done by the City. **As a start, we would like the City to include in its 2016 Budget an amount to allow for additional Police resources in the Entertainment District during key periods.**

We would also like the City to consider installing either new police surveillance cameras or relocate existing police surveillance cameras to the King/Charlotte/Oxley/Spadina area of the Entertainment District.

Just consider the following incidents that have happened in the King/ Charlotte/Oxley/Spadina area in 2015:

- Shooting outside Bloke nightclub on King St. West (June 2015);
- 3 men stabbed outside nightclub on King St. W, west of Spadina (Sept 2015);
- 31-year old man assaulted, beaten and stabbed by 8 men in the area around 510 King West (near Spadina area) (November 2015); and
- Gunfire on Charlotte Street (December 2015).

We at the Hudson, Glas and Charlie condominiums want to ensure that our community remains a vibrant, livable and safe community and we strongly believe that to ensure that this happens, our tax dollars must be reinvested in services that not only benefit the community but ultimately the City and the tourists and visitors to the Entertainment District.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further.

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Regards,

The Hudson

Virgile Rostand, President, Director
Angela Lin, Director
Dave Collins, Director
Joan Gold, Director
Sherrie Graat, Director
Matt Smith, Communications Committee
Kim Garner, Communications Committee

Charlie Condominiums

Al Daimee, Director
Mark Kimel, Director

Glas Condominiums

Matthew Godycki, Director
Reena Chaudhary, Director
Suzanne Harrison, Director

Icon Property Management

Kelly Jennings, Senior Executive Property Manager
George Zgheib, Senior Property Manager
Elisa Ionadi, Office Administrator

Cc Councillor Joe Cressy Cressy@toronto.ca
Janice Solomon, Executive Director Toronto Entertainment District BIA
jsolomon@torontoed.com
Mark Saunders, Chief of Police

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January 22, 2016

Dear Residents,

RE: Community Safety Meeting

On Tuesday, January 19th, a meeting was held in Club Hudson in response to the letter that the Hudson Board of Directors sent to Councillor Joe Cressy. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss recent safety incidents in the community, understand the concerns of all stakeholders, and collectively work towards solutions.

The meeting was attended by representatives of the following:

- The Office of Councillor Joe Cressy
- Toronto Police
- City of Toronto Crisis Response
- Toronto Entertainment District (BIA Representative)
- The board of directors of each of the following buildings:
 - The Hudson (as well as property management and members of the communications committee)
 - Charlie
 - Glass

The first portion of the meeting focused on the details of the recent incidents, notably the shooting on December 7, 2015 resulting in a death. Those in attendance were able to shed some light on the compounding factors that are contributing to the recent incidents in the Entertainment District. A number of issues arose from this discussion:

- Budgetary constraints have decreased the police presence during specific time periods
- The growing size of the Entertainment District stretches the available police resources thin on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights
- Lack of available public surveillance footage in the area as the buildings are predominately residential and do not have street facing cameras
- An apparent increase in comfort level among the public regarding carrying concealed weapons as the fear of police intervention is low
- Taxes paid by residential owners in the Entertainment District are redistributed to support other areas and not utilized in the areas where the taxes were paid
- Residents do not always report incidents to the police, either after the fact or as they are occurring
- It is becoming increasingly difficult to remove or suspend licenses under the current Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) regulations

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- The Entertainment District is governed by three bodies: (1) police, (2) City of Toronto, and (3) Ontario government which leads to inefficiencies in making changes in the political landscape

The Police were also able to shed light to what they are currently doing to help support safety in the Entertainment District. Those initiatives include:

- Police dedicated to the Entertainment District that supplement the current 52 Division. Such police are on bikes, horses and foot patrol
- Requiring clubs that have conditions associated with their license (due to history of crime or violations) to have paid officers on duty during operating hours
- Facilitating the timely movement of people and traffic *out* of the Entertainment District when the clubs let out

Action items that were identified for moving forward are:

- To encourage residents to call the Police directly if they see an ongoing incident or are concerned that what they see may escalate to violence. Call 911 for Emergencies or the Non-Emergency hotline 416-808-2222
- The Board of the Hudson, Charlie and Glas to work together to engage the City, Mayor, AGCO and local provincial member or parliament to advocate on investing more tax dollars and resources in our community (such as installation of police cameras)

The key takeaway that the Hudson board would like to share with the residents is that the recent crime has not gone unnoticed by the local police force or our representatives at the city. The most important things the residents and members of the public can do is to help by reporting any and all illegal or suspicious activity; advocating for and engaging with the City to ensure our tax dollars benefit us (the City is currently undertaking the 2016 Budget process); and continuing to responsibly enjoy the Entertainment District so as to keep it the vibrant, enjoyable community that we all live here for.