

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM18.9	ACTION			Ward:27
--------	--------	--	--	---------

Accessibility and Public Safety around the Yonge and Dundas Intersection - by Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Pam McConnell

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Licensing and Standards Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam, seconded by Councillor Pam McConnell, recommends that:

1. City Council suspend all busking permits and related busking activities around the Cadillac Fairview Toronto Eaton Centre's Yonge and Dundas entrances, and 10 Dundas Street East to ensure physical access and public safety until a longer term policy or strategy can be developed.
2. City Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to report to the Licensing and Standards Committee in the first quarter of 2017 after completing a review of the busker by-laws, and longer term policy and strategy on buskers.
3. City Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to work with permitted buskers on identifying locations within the downtown core that can support street performance without creating sidewalk access impediments for the elderly and for people living with disabilities, and public safety concerns for pedestrians.

Summary

Yonge Street is the busiest street in Canada, with over 42 million pedestrians every year. The public realm in its current configuration does not have the capacity to handle such a large volume of pedestrian movement. Busking and vending on the streets around Toronto Eaton Centre are creating barriers for people using mobility devices and are causing sidewalk congestion, pinch points, and large congregations of people, creating serious public safety issues, whereby pedestrians are moving from the sidewalk onto the streets into oncoming vehicular traffic with cars, buses, trucks, bicycles, motorcycles, and streetcars. Other intersections and downtown streets should be explored by the buskers and vendors as additional areas to accommodate their needs.

This problem has been an on-going concern for local residents stakeholders for several years,

with a number of solutions related to increased outreach and communication with buskers, and enforcement of existing by-laws implemented by Bylaw Enforcement, the Downtown Yonge Business Improvement Area, and Cadillac Fairview Toronto Eaton Centre. However with population growth of the downtown, public safety and access concerns have only become more severe. As the area continues to grow, the resulting increases in pedestrian traffic will serve to further exacerbate this public safety concern.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM18.9