



Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Toronto City Council  
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**Attn: Marilyn Toft, Council Secretariat**  
**Delivered by email to: [councilmeeting@toronto.ca](mailto:councilmeeting@toronto.ca)**

**Re: PH27.2 – Zoning Conformity for Official Plan Employment Areas – Phase 1 Final Report and Phase 2 Update**

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf of **Art Starts**, I wish to express our concern and alarm with respect to the report on Zoning By-Law conformity for employment zones in the Official Plan, specifically the proposed removal of permissions for bingo halls and related uses in the Former City of Etobicoke Zoning By-law (Attachment 9 to the Final Report).

Our charity is one of 66 local charities that rely on Delta Bingo and Gaming St. Clair, to support our organization in the Toronto community. Without that support we will simply not be able to function.

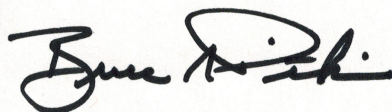
Art Starts is an award-winning charity founded in 1992. Our mandate is to inspire long-term social change in Toronto's under-served neighbourhoods through community building arts initiatives. Bringing together professional artists and Toronto residents, we create collaborative and inclusive arts projects in all artistic disciplines. Our innovative approach to art-making results in barrier-free programs that celebrate communities, foster collaboration and respond meaningfully to local needs. *We often hire local youth to learn how to facilitate our programs. It's a paid training and mentorship program for teens who often have no adult role models and think they will never get a job. This opportunity can be life changing for them and the funds from Bingo pay for these opportunities!*

The last 18 months have been very challenging for everyone, and our organization is no exception. We have struggled to survive with very little funding as Delta St. Clair was closed for 420 days over the course of the pandemic. Now, due to a proposed expropriation from the City of Toronto and Metrolinx, the Delta St. Clair location will have to move to another site. The new site (at 360 Evans Ave.) is currently zoned to allow for a Bingo Hall. Under the proposed By-law amendment that permission would be revoked.

As you can appreciate, finding an appropriate venue at a reasonable price in the current real estate environment is a real challenge. We are looking forward to the move to 360 Evans Ave. and urge you not to remove this permission and allow us to re-locate as planned with the current permissions.

Based on the concerns identified above, we respectfully request that the Draft By-laws and report, specifically as it applies to the use of employment lands for bingo halls, is removed entirely or in the very least referred back to City Planning staff for dedicated public consultation and review. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request, and we look forward to further discussions on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Pitkin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "P".

Bruce Pitkin  
Executive Director