

From: [Brendan Bergie](#)
To: [Delta Bingo Association St. Clair](#); [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: ATTN: Marilyn Toft re: November 9 council meeting
Date: November 6, 2021 12:53:57 PM

Tuesday, November 9, 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

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 the Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra, 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.

The Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra (EPO) has been serving the residents of Etobicoke for over 60 years. The EPO comprises sixty amateur musicians who represent all walks of life and include several advanced music students. The standard performance season includes a subscription series of five concerts and one discovery or educational concert.

The funding provided through gaming revenues encompasses 40% of our operating budget and has allowed us to fund activities such as:

- Our student scholarship, which allows up to 8 young musicians gain orchestral experience, mentorship and some financial assistance to support their music studies
- The EPO Young Composer's Competition, a unique national competition for classical composers under 30.
- A series of free, socially distanced concerts at retirement communities in Etobicoke. Since March 2020 we have held over a dozen of these concerts, providing much needed entertainment to hundreds of seniors, who were some of the most significantly impacted during the pandemic

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,

Brendan Bergie

Treasurer

Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra

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