



James Pasternak
Councillor | York Centre - Downsview

Toronto City Hall

City Hall, 100 Queen St. West, 2nd Floor, A22
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

March 23, 2021

Re: Safe Opening of the Barry Zuckerman Amphitheatre

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee:

The Barry Zuckerman Amphitheatre is an iconic outdoor venue that has been the centre of arts and culture in North York for decades. Although the facility can seat approximately 1,500 people, it is rarely filled with more than 20% capacity. With a safety plan in place, it is felt by the community that this facility can operate in summer, 2021. The facility allows for physical distancing in the seating, has a large stage that keeps musicians at a safe distance, and its outdoor setting provides for a low risk COVID transmission. While staff have to keep an eye on the outdoor gathering limits between March and July, working on a safety plan now would ensure the quick opening of the amphitheatre if it is safe to do so. Admittedly, musicians would have to be booked, and with an eye on safety, solo artists might be an option for summer 2021.

Recommendation:

1. That City Council, direct the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with Toronto's Medical Officer of Health, to report back to the April 28, 2021 meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee for the safe opening and operating of the Earl Bales (Barry Zuckerman) amphitheatre for summer 2021.

Sincerely,

Councillor James Pasternak
Toronto - Ward 6, York Centre - Downsview
Chair, North York Community Council