

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM35.42	ACTION			Ward: All
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Musician Rehearsal Spaces in the City of Toronto - by Councillor Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Brad Bradford

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Brad Bradford, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Manager, the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to review the current inventory, availability, cost, and general status of rehearsal space for musicians in the City of Toronto.
2. City Council direct the City Manager, the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to consider measures the City can implement with respect to increasing, encouraging and protecting rehearsal space for musicians across the City, and in particular the west end of Toronto.
3. City Council direct the City Manager, the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to report back to the October 27, 2021 meeting of the Executive Committee with both an assessment and recommendations.

Summary

Live music performance is among the most significantly impacted sectors of the Toronto economy during the pandemic. Since March 2020, musicians, and the venues that support them, have essentially been unable to perform or rehearse in

the City. During this period in areas such as the Geary neighbourhood in Ward 9, there has been increasing pressure with respect to availability of rehearsal space for music. Indeed, while difficult to quantify exactly across the entirety of the City, it is very clear that rehearsal space is under threat and diminishing quickly. In the absence of this rehearsal space, musicians will not be able to rehearse for live venue performances in a sector that has already been impacted enormously. It is essential that this rehearsal space be protected, encouraged and increased or the sector will be subject to even more significant pressures than they are currently experiencing and expect to endure for the foreseeable future.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM35.42