



**Michael
Thompson**

Deputy Mayor
Chair, Economic & Community
Development Committee
Councillor, Scarborough Centre

September 20, 2021

Members of the Planning and Housing Committee,

I am writing in support of the recommendations in the staff report, for item PH26.1 "Community Improvement Plan for the Renovation and Rehabilitation of Commercial Properties."

This report recommends the legal structure, through a Community Improvement Plan, that is required for the City of Toronto to take full advantage of recently announced Federal funding for Toronto's Main Street Recovery and Rebuild Initiative.

The Main Street Recovery and Rebuild Initiative represents a significant investment in Toronto's retail sector and main streets, building upon the economic recovery objectives of the Build Back Stronger, report as well as the important work of the Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild.

We have heard from business associations and operators for many years that the City of Toronto needs to be their partner and have their back, and the Community Improvement Plan recommended in this report creates the enabling structure that allows for "co-investment" by business and the City in neighbourhoods and community, in a manner which will support employment, maintain and improve property values, and support the dynamism, safety and accessibility of Toronto's streets and businesses.

Providing cost-shared grants to businesses hit hard by the pandemic will allow them to make leasehold improvements to commercial spaces and participate in programs like CaféTO to attract customers and restore vitality to Toronto's commercial streets.

Thank-you for your support of this important report.

Yours truly,

Michael Thompson
Deputy Mayor
Chair, Economic and Community Development Committee
Councillor, Ward 21, Scarborough Centre