

March 24, 2022

Dear Chair and Members of Economic and Community Development Committee,

Re: EC28.2 Supporting Restaurants in Toronto - Recovery and Renewal

Patios bring vibrancy to Toronto's streets, contribute to the character of neighbourhoods, and have helped support small businesses and restaurants disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CaféTO program allowed restaurants to quickly and easily expand their outdoor dining space, recognizing the importance of this seasonal time for restaurants, bars, and eating establishments.

Many operators are interested in further investment into their patios including covered structures providing protection from the elements and heating, which would allow them to provide comfortable year-round service. However, neither the sidewalk café program nor CaféTO have clear processes in place for permitting structures and other enclosures for patios.

The expansion of patios have been critical for the survival of the restaurant industry. Expanding outdoor dining opportunities will continue to provide an important support for this sector.

RECOMMENDATION

1. City Council request the General Manager of Transportation Services, Executive Director of Economic Development and Culture, Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards, the Chief Building Official and Executive Director of Toronto Building, in consultation with Toronto Fire, Toronto Public Health and other relevant stakeholders, to report before the end of 2022 on the feasibility, safety, and relevant conditions for the approval of full or partial, permanent or seasonal, enclosures and heating for patios on the public right of way, including fire safety, building code requirements, air quality, utility access, and winter maintenance operating challenges.

Thank you,

Councillor Mike Layton
Ward 11, University-Rosedale