

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM47.67	ACTION			Ward: All
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Protecting Music Venues Across Toronto - by Councillor Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher

** Notice of this Motion has not been given. A two-thirds vote is required to waive notice.
* This Motion is subject to referral to the Economic and Community Development Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.
* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

Recommendations

Councillor Ana Bailão, seconded by Councillor Paula Fletcher, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to work with the Executive Director, Corporate Finance, the City Solicitor and other relevant divisions to explore the feasibility of a capital loan guarantee program to support organizations in purchasing properties in order to preserve music venues in the City of Toronto.

Summary

In February 2022, City Council approved a loan guarantee to the iconic Hugh's Room Live music venue on an exceptional basis. This action recognized the vital importance of supporting live music venues such as this important establishment.

The reality is that many music venues across the City are experiencing significant challenges with respect to long-term financial sustainability, and as a result, musicians are facing increasing difficulties in accessing establishments where their talents and work can be showcased and enjoyed by residents.

The pandemic has only served to increase these pressures over the past two years, and though a recovery is advancing, it is important that every possible measure of support for live music venues be considered by the City.

This Motion directs staff to undertake a broad review of all possible measures in exploring the establishment of a capital loan guarantee program to support the purchase of music venues in order to protect and secure this important part of our City's arts and culture ecosystem.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM47.67