



To the City Clerk:

Please add our comments to the agenda for the for the February 7, 2023 City Council meeting on item 2023.EX2.4, CaféTO 2023 and Beyond

We understand that our comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, we understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and our names may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

February 6, 2023

To the City Council,

**RE: CafeTO EX2.4 proposed program changes - please address issues to ensure that CafeTO flourishes into the future**

The Leslieville BIA is writing to urgently asking that council consider that changes to the CafeTO 2023 program are causing major concerns among our BIA members. Our BIA conducted a crucial survey among our members for their views on the new CafeTO 2023 & Beyond changes to the existing program.

Survey Highlights

- **67%** of survey respondents in our BIA said they **would not apply for a permit** to participate in CafeTO this year **if they were limited to only the default space**. Quite a number of them only have 12-13 feet of frontage and it simply isn't worth it for a space so small that also meets the new platform and fencing requirements.
- **50%** felt they **would not have sufficient time and financial resources** to prepare and meet deadlines surrounding the issues cited above (securing funding, platforms, fencing, completing applications etc)
- **83%** indicated they **would need to apply for the coast sharing grant**, however, if the grant was **not approved**, **only half** would be able to finance their patio and fencing.

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- **66%** of respondents said they **would not apply for a patio** if their **space was limited** to their storefront width. In Leslieville, the average length is 12'.

In light of the fact that all of our Leslieville BIA members are still in pandemic recovery mode and require these patios for survival, our BIA is making four requests to be considered at council meeting, February 7th, 2023.

- 1.) Reduction of fees to half in 2023, and
- 2.) Due to severe lack of lead time this year, CafeTO ought to begin planning well in advance to allow operators time to respond adequately, moving forward. Planning for summer 2024 should begin in November of 2023, and
- 3.) Confirmation that all BIAs that want to participate in this year's CafeTO pilot for customised frontage plans be allowed to do so, and
- 4.) We request that all qualifying patio grant applications be approved.

In the words of our members:

**“As a small business owner that is still reeling from the repercussions of a 3 year pandemic, I should not have to explain that these extra costs that are being put on us is an enormous punch in the stomach. Our city is not giving us a semblance of chance to get back on our feet before they take away the few cents that we have made in the last couple of years.”**

**“The rumblings amongst us restaurant owners is that we will opt to not have patios if the cost and efforts outweigh the profit. With the size restrictions being aligned to our frontage only, it does not seem economically feasible.”**

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Thank you for continuing to support our businesses during this crucial time.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christiane Tetreault".

Christiane Tetreault  
Chair, Leslieville BIA

By cc: LeslievilleBIA board, David Nickel

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