



Jennifer McKelvie
Deputy Mayor

September 20, 2023

Economic and Community Development Committee
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

To the Economic and Community Development Committee,

Re: EC6.3 Support for Toronto's Restaurants

Restaurants continue to face challenges in achieving a post-pandemic economic recovery. Rising food costs, inflation and reduced discretionary spending among customers, all contribute to a lack of financial stability.

Particularly, in the inner suburbs, restaurants have also begun to experience displacement. Strip malls and plazas, where many restaurants are located, are being replaced by development. While we acknowledge the importance of building homes in the City of Toronto, many restaurant-owners are being forced to leave without the funds or resources to find a new location.

As the report acknowledges, many restaurants in the inner suburbs are operated by newcomer business owners who "represent significant expressions of cultural cuisine, sense of community, and immigrant entrepreneurialism." These restaurants also represent an ethnically diverse workforce and a place for community gathering.

Many restaurant owners will face displacement without the legal and financial guidance needed to reopen; however, the preservation of these cultural hubs is necessary to the continued vitality of the inner suburban communities.

Recommendation:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to identify available resources that can be shared with restaurant owners facing displacement due to development, as part of the Division's next update in Q1 2024 to City Councillors on City supports available to small businesses.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. McKelvie".

Deputy Mayor Jennifer McKelvie
Councillor, Scarborough–Rouge Park