

## City Council

### Motion without Notice

MM7.29	ACTION			Ward: 11
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### **Fringe Festival Lane Closure - by Councillor Diane Saxe, seconded by Councillor Chris Moise**

*\* 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 Toronto and East York Community Council. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.  
\* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

### **Recommendations**

Councillor Diane Saxe, seconded by Councillor Chris Moise, recommends that:

1. City Council approve the temporary closure to vehicular traffic of Barbara Barrett Lane, between David French Lane to Brunswick Avenue, from Monday, July 3, 2023 to Tuesday, July 18, 2023, in order to facilitate the Toronto Fringe Festival.

### **Summary**

The Toronto Fringe Festival marks its 35th year of operation this summer. It is the most accessible arts event in the City, presenting 102 theatrical shows at 17 venues from July 5-16, 2023. Fringe has premiered some of Canada's most successful productions including Kim's Convenience, My Mother's Lesbian Jewish Wiccan Wedding, 'Da Kink In My Hair, The Drowsy Chaperone, and Mump and Smoot. All Fringe Festivals in Canada are mandated to choose their participants by lottery, and return 100% of the box office revenues to the artist in the festival, which has seen a return of over \$6.5 million over the past three decades to artists from across the country. It is one of the longest-running City-supported events, and has received municipal endorsement each year for over a decade.

Transportation Services has closed laneways in the past for the Toronto Fringe Festival, and again this year, the festival is collaborating with the Tranzac at 292 Brunswick Avenue to bring an outdoor patio and exciting programming experience. The event organizer is requesting to temporarily close Barbara Barrett Lane, between David French Lane to Brunswick Avenue, from Monday, July 3, 2023 to Tuesday, July 18, 2023 in order to accommodate their programming. The purpose of the proposed closure is to facilitate a festival hub and will include food and drink service, buskers, and the festival box office.

Municipal Code Chapter 937-3 authorizes the General Manager of Transportation Services to temporarily close to vehicular traffic any portion of a road for a period of not more than four consecutive days for social, recreational, community, athletic or cinematographic purposes. This proposed closure will be in effect for more than 4 days and, therefore, requires Community Council approval. There will be no amplified noise outdoors after 11:00 p.m. The

Toronto Fringe was granted the same street event closure permit in July 2022, and received no noise or other complaints.

This Motion is urgent because the road closure has to begin July 3, 2023 to accommodate the Toronto Fringe Festival.

**Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM7.29

Attachment 1 - Letter from Councillor Diane Saxe on Fringe Festival Lane Closure Permit  
(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-237379.pdf>)