



November 29, 2023

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Attention: Nancy Martins.

PH8.2 Recommended Amendments to Zoning By-laws for Bars, Restaurants and Entertainment Venues as part of the Night Economy Review - Final Report

Dear Chair Gord Perks and Members of the Planning and Development Committee

FoNTRA's members are 35 Residents Associations with the area bounded by Bloor, Bathurst, Sheppard and the Don Valley Parkway.

FoNTRA supports the expansion of the City's Night Economy initiatives but wants to ensure that the major issues with noise from entertainment issues are adequately addressed. On Tuesday, the ECDC meeting approved a new framework for licensing entertainment uses to come into effect in 2026.

Most of the members of our member resident associations, like residents RAs across the City, have no experience with the current Noise Bylaw, no knowledge of the City's night economy objectives, no knowledge of the City's zoning and no direct experience with the issues caused by current night economy type establishments, which do not operate over night.

Some residents participated in initial discussions about general ideas for changes to regulations for bars, restaurants and entertainments venues including permitting night clubs etc. in areas of the City beyond the Downtown. The main message we heard from residents at was that the entertainment establishments were extremely noisy and disruptive, and that their patrons on the street were too. And that making complaints often did not result in successful outcomes. The changes to regulations now being presented in the staff report were not discussed in any detail at these consultations.

We note that 73% of noise related complaints received by the City were about noise from bars, restaurants and entertainment establishments. Further, the Toronto Medical Officer of Health has expressed her concerns about the health impacts of high levels of noise. We need a much different and stronger system to address these issues.

We only have a week to reach residents across the City and for them to submit their comments. Each report is complex. We need more time to review each report but also to understand how the MLS report and the Noise Bylaw Review will work together to provide effective program that works for the night economy industry and for the residents of the City. It appears there has been considerable consultation with the entertainment industry but not so much with residents.

Our concerns are about the impacts of the Planning recommendations that will substantially expand the areas where the potentially noisy entertainment uses are permitted, the increased size of size of the increase the permitted floor are for entertainment uses, as well the effectiveness of limiting such uses to the ground floor of non residential buildings and requiring a separation of 6.1m to residential areas. Increasingly there are new mixed use buildings that can be very close to an entertainment use. Internal measures in the business can be more effective in reducing the impacts of excessive noise.

Consultations to date have been to focus on the issues not proposed solutions.

The EC8.13 MLS report, adopted on November 28, recommends that its proposals not to come into effect until 2025. We can comment further some of the proposals to Council. There is time now for further public consultation and consideration of impacts of that report and this report to help ensure that the Night Entertainment initiative will work well on the ground for residents as well as businesses. Other municipalities have been successful. Toronto 's goal must be as stated in Vancouver's restaurant, bar and entertainment review: *"Recommendations that achieve a workable balance between two important goals: increased opportunity for live entertainment and neighbourliness."*

Therefore, FONTRA on behalf of its 35 Resident Associations and their members recommends that PH8.2 Recommended Amendments to Zoning By-laws for Bars, Restaurants and Entertainment Venues as part of the Night Economy Review - Final Report be deferred to provide information and opportunities for consultations to members of the public across the City who will be affected by the proposals.

Geoff Kettel
Co- Chair FoNTRA

Cathie Macdonald
Co- Chair FoNTRA

CC: Gregg Lintern, Chief Planner, Executive Director, City Planning Division, Carlton Grant, Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards Division.

e Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 200,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.