

Monday, February 6, 2023

Toronto and East York Community Council
City Hall, Committee Room 1
100 Queen Street West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Council Members,

RE: Permanently Closing Market Street between Front Street East and The Esplanade

Market Street, between Front Street East and The Esplanade, was temporarily closed in 2022 at the request of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association and the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area (BIA). This closure last summer was very well received by the local community, with a survey indicating that approximately 80% of participants were interested in seeing Market Street close permanently to accommodate pedestrians and programming.

Market Street, between Front Street East and The Esplanade was designed as a flexible street without curbs in 2014. Adjacent to the historic St. Lawrence Market, Market Street is within a heavily pedestrianized and historic part of Toronto known for its many restaurants, shops and boutiques.

Following a successful 2022, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association and the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA have asked that this section of Market Street be permanently closed to vehicular traffic.

This closure, aside from providing an attractive space for pedestrians next to a major civic asset, will allow the St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA to once again help program Market Street, and allow opportunities for additional seating, live performances and more.

I fully support these efforts, but recognize that closing a City street will require further review. A request to conduct this review was requested by the Toronto and East York Community Council on May 19, 2021, and remains outstanding. I am therefore requesting that a temporary closure this year be permitted until the details of a permanent closure can be brought forward and implemented.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. Authorize the General Manager of Transportation Services to temporarily close Market Street between Front Street East and The Esplanade from June 1, 2023 to October 15, 2023.
2. Direct the General Manager, Transportation to work with stakeholders and the St. Lawrence Business Improvement Area to come up with solutions for deliveries and waste collection, as required, through the permitting for the closure.
3. Request the General Manager, Transportation Services, to consult with the Manager, St Lawrence Market Complex, Corporate Services, St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Business Improvement Area, the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association, and other City divisions and stakeholders as identified about the permanent closure of Market Street, between Front Street East and The Esplanade, and to report back to the June 22, 2023 meeting of Toronto and East York Community Council with recommendations regarding closing this section of Market Street permanently.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Moise". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Moise
City Councillor
Ward 13 - Toronto Centre

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