

Night Economy Consultation Update

Date: April 6, 2023

To: Toronto and East York Community Council

From: Patrick Tobin, General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

Wards: Ward 19 Beaches-East York; Ward 9 Davenport; Ward 14 Toronto-Danforth; Ward 10 Spadina-Fort York; Ward 12 Toronto St. Paul's; Ward 13 Toronto Centre; Ward 4 Parkdale-High Park; Ward 11 University-Rosedale

SUMMARY

This report outlines the presentation to be given by EDC to Toronto East York Community Council on April 12, 2023 regarding work to support Toronto's Night Economy, the related review of licensing and zoning for bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues, and related consultations and reports.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of Economic Development and Culture recommends that the Toronto and East York Community Council accept this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

On February 23, 2023, resulting from a Member request to the Chair of the Toronto and East York Community Council, Economic Development and Culture gave a presentation on the status of the work toward developing the Night Economy Action Plan, specifically the consultation plan including schedule of and approach to public engagement

including outreach and areas of enquiry, involvement of relevant City Divisions, and approval schedule for resulting reports across Divisions and through the consultant. Motions resulting requested EDC request a presentation on the consultation plan from the vendor, VibeLab, engage in robust engagement with local Residents Associations, and report back on progress to date.

[2023-02-23 Minutes - Toronto and East York Community Council](#) TE3.14

On December 7, 2021, Executive Committee adopted Item EX28.15: Framework for the Review of Licensing and Zoning Regulations for Restaurants, Bars and Entertainment Venues, which directed the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards and the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning to report back with final recommendations and proposed by-law amendments to modernize and clarify licensing and zoning regulations for restaurants, bars and entertainment venues, as well as recommendations related to the addressing impacts of problematic establishments as well as work with Economic Development and Culture and other divisions to consult with relevant stakeholders and the public on proposed regulatory changes for restaurants, bars, and entertainment venues, and to include a summary of these consultation efforts in the final report. <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.EX28.15>.

On December 17, 2019, City Council adopted Item GL10.14: Update on Cross-Jurisdictional Action Plan for Bars, Restaurants, and Nightclubs, which outlined plans to develop a cross-jurisdictional inspection and enforcement action for problematic establishments serving alcohol. City Council directed staff to continue to engage the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario and the Toronto Police Service and report back on progress of the cross-jurisdictional action plan as part of the bars, restaurants and nightclubs review in the second quarter of 2020.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.GL10.14>

On October 29, 2019, City Council adopted, Item GL8.19: City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 545, Licensing By-law Updates, to address duplication of the Licensing By-law with the Health Protection and Promotion Act, reduce regulatory burden for businesses, and enhancing the readability and consistency of the By-law.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.GL8.19>

On October 15, 2019, the Planning and Housing Committee adopted Item PH9.6: Live Music Venues, requesting staff to undertake a review of the business licensing requirements, Official Plan policies, and Zoning By-law permissions and definitions related to live music venues, including size, locational performance standards, and potential amendments, and consult with the Toronto Music Advisory Committee and report back with recommendations in the fourth quarter of 2020.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.PH9.6>

On July 16, 2019, City Council adopted Item EC6.8: Strengthening Toronto's Nighttime Economy, requesting the Mayor to designate a Member of Council as Toronto's Night Ambassador for the 2018 to 2022 term of Council, and requesting staff to: report to ECDC on priorities for night economy from a working group of senior staff from MLS, City Planning, Transportation Services, and other relevant Divisions; report to ECDC on input from night time stakeholders on best practices to enhance inclusive social culture Night Economy Consultation Update

at night; to align the review of zoning and business licensing regulations, including consideration for noise, to clarify the requirements and provide support for venues regularly presenting live music and report to the Economic and Community Development Committee and the Planning and Housing Committee, as appropriate; to identify emerging entertainment areas outside the downtown core that can support entertainment uses at night and report to the Planning and Housing Committee; consider the feasibility of 24-hour licensed venues in suitable locations and the feasibility of whether such venues could offer other services.

[Agenda Item History - 2019.EC6.8 \(toronto.ca\)](#)

On July 16, 2019, City Council adopted Item MM9.17: An Inspection and Enforcement Action Plan on Problematic Establishments Serving Alcohol, requesting staff to consult with the Toronto Police Service and the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario to develop and implement a cross-jurisdictional action plan to respond, manage and resolve negative community impacts created by problematic establishments serving alcohol, and to report back in the fourth quarter of 2019 on the plan's successes and needed improvements.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.MM9.17>

On January 14, 2019, the General Government and Licensing Committee adopted Item GL1.8: Comprehensive Review of Business Licensing - Update, which included an overview of work completed to date to review the Licensing By-law, as well as next steps for the planned reviews.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.GL1.8>

On April 29, 2019, Economic and Community Development Committee directed the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to report back with a plan to foster and enhance Toronto's night economy.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EC4.7>

On January 18, 2018, Economic Development Committee directed the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to facilitate the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas' collection of data for the Responsible Hospitality Institute's pro bono study of the nighttime economy in Toronto.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.ED26.9>

On April 13, 2018, Economic Development Committee directed the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to develop a vision and action plan to advance the nighttime economy in Toronto and report back in 2019.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.ED28.5>

On May 22, 2018, City Council adopted, with amendments, Item PG29.4: TOcore: Downtown Plan Official Plan Amendment, resulting in adoption of the Downtown Plan Official Plan Amendment. Council directed staff to undertake a review of the City-wide policies and zoning permissions related to live music venues and report back to the Planning and Growth Management Committee.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.PG29.4>

On November 7, 2017, City Council adopted, with amendments, Item AU10.4: A Review of Municipal Licensing and Standards Division's Management of Business Licences - Part Three: Eating Establishments and Nightclubs, which included a report from the Auditor General identifying concerns related to the lack of a clear and enforceable definition of nightclubs, resulting in a considerable amount of eating establishments operating as unlicensed nightclubs. City Council directed staff to consult with relevant stakeholders and report back on recommendations to improve licensing categories to better reflect current nightlife, as well as ways to ensure establishments are abiding by the provisions of their current business license.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.AU10.4>

On March 6, 2017, the Licensing and Standards Committee adopted Item LS17.3: Downtown Entertainment District - Enforcement of Nightclub Moratorium, requesting staff to report to the Licensing and Standards Committee on April 18, 2017 on enforcement activities regarding restaurants operating as nightclubs and nightclubs operating outside of the "nightclub moratorium area", and what policy changes or enforcement measures can be taken to address the issue.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.LS17.3>

At its meeting on May 17, 2016, Economic Development Committee directed the City Manager and the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, together with appropriate parties, to explore the creation of a Night Mayor Ambassador Program.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.ED12.12>

COMMENTS

Responding to direction from Council, Executive Committee, Economic and Community Development Committee, General Government and Licensing Committee, and Planning and Housing Committee, Municipal Licensing and Standards, City Planning and Economic Development and Culture are partnering on a consultation process which reviews licensing and zoning for bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues, and explores opportunities to support a safe, inclusive, and sustainable night economy operating in compliance with by-laws and relevant regulation. Toronto's Night Economy is the mandate of the Economic and Community Development Committee, and related consultations are part of a formal City procurement process. Zoning and licensing reviews are the mandate of the Planning and Housing Committee and of the Economic and Community Development Committee respectively.

The presentation by staff will provide an update on the consultation plan and progress to date and provide detail on outreach in general and specifically to Residents Associations in Toronto and East York. The vendor will be present to answer questions.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

None