



Kensington Market Business Improvement Area

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Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, Suite C47
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: Concerns Regarding the Kensington Safe Streets Project

To The Chair and Members of the Toronto and East York Community Council,

We hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. On behalf of the Kensington Market Business Improvement Area (KMBIA), we would like to express our concerns regarding the Kensington Safe Streets Project, which has been a topic of many discussion within our community. Throughout the project, the KMBIA has actively engaged in multiple consultations and meetings with the Project Team and the Kensington Market community.

The BIA appreciates and acknowledges the revisions made to the plan in regards to the designated loading areas and modifying all streets to be slow-streets instead of the three different zones that were originally proposed. However during our most recent Monthly Board Meeting, the KMBIA Board Members made two motions in relation to the project.

- Firstly, the Board has motioned to oppose the plan, as it currently stands, which was presented to the Community City Council. The opposition is based on the grounds that many of the proposed elements are unfavourable to our business members who work and live in the Kensington Market area, particularly those directly impacted by it.
- Following the first motion, the Board passed a motion to present a letter of feedback to the Community Council, outlining the details of our position on the project and addressing some of the greatest concern to our local and business Kensington Market community. We believe it is crucial for these concerns to be heard and taken into consideration during the decision-making process.



Allow us to outline some of the major concerns our BIA and community members have raised regarding the Kensington Safe Streets Project:

- **Pedestrianisation Pilot Project:** We recognize and support the objective of enhancing the pedestrian experience within the market. However, we are apprehensive about and oppose implementing pedestrian-only zones. Kensington Market has a long standing history of organically sharing the streets and continues to do so with minimal accidents. This distinction of the way people have used and shared the Kensington Market streets is vital to the preservation of the history of our neighborhood while evolving in its own unique way. Most of the community members have also expressed concerns about the inadvertent impacts that pedestrian-only streets would have on significantly higher commercial rents. This would endanger the long-standing sustainability of our small local businesses, which have been the vital cornerstone of Kensington Market for years.
- **Rolled Curbs:** KMBIA continues to hear from its business members about the unfavourable impacts of the proposed rolled curbs in Kensington Market streets. Kensington Market is an already densely populated and highly utilized area, where its streets serve as thoroughfares for a variety of transportation modes, including bikes, cars, and trucks. Moreover, these streets are shared by pedestrians, resulting in a harmonious coexistence that has resulted in minimal accidents. Based on our understanding of the market's nature and past experiences with rolled curbs in other neighborhoods of Toronto, the KMBIA expresses concerns regarding the potential escalation of stress related to street usage and its impact on public safety.
- **Proposed Changes to and loss of (82) Paid On-Street Parking Spots:** The business community in Kensington Market is concerned about impacts of the lost on-streest paid parking spots in the market. Many businesses have relied on these short-term parking spaces in front of their stores to attract customers from all around the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) for many years. The prospect of losing these driving customers is a genuine worry that could impact the viability and sustainability of our local businesses. Ideally, we would see short-term parking (30min) during the day to benefit our raw food sellers and some evening parking for our restaurants.

We kindly request that you take these concerns into account and consider alternative approaches to address the issues faced by Kensington Market. KMBIA kindly requests that road and watermain repair constructions be carried out in a timely manner, minimizing the impact on our business members and avoiding prolonged construction timelines as much as possible.



We believe that continued collaborative effort between the City of Toronto, and the local community can lead to a solution that promotes a vibrant and inclusive market while safeguarding the interests of our small businesses.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We would appreciate the opportunity to further discuss our concerns and provide any additional information to achieve a mutually beneficial outcome.

Sincerely,

The Kensington Market Business Improvement Area (KMBIA)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason Kuticki'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

- Jason Kuticki
Board Member + Marketing Committee Chair