

Night Economy Working Groups Update

Date: November 12, 2024

To: Economic and Community Development Committee

From: General Manager, Economic Development and Culture

Wards: All

SUMMARY

A healthy night economy requires a responsive municipal framework that enables nighttime business and culture to thrive while balancing the needs of all city residents and visitors. As directed by Council, two distinct but related night economy working groups were established to enhance the social, cultural, and economic activities taking place between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. This staff report provides updates on the efforts of the two working groups to advance this work. It also provides updates on other City efforts relating to the night economy, including the Night Economy Annual Town Hall, the Good Neighbour Guide for Late-Night Businesses, as well as the communication channels used to support work relating to the night economy.

The Night Economy Internal Working Group advances a coordinated approach across City divisions and agencies to ensure that Toronto's night experience is safe, positive, sustainable, and inclusive. The Night Economy External Working Group, in turn, provides insight from nighttime businesses, creative sectors, and residents to help inform the City's support of the night economy.

As described in this staff report, current priorities of the two working groups include: integrating applicable city-wide plans and strategies, such as SafeTO and Our Health, Our City; and enhancing those elements which can enable a healthy and sustainable night economy, including public transportation, flexible use of space, and family-friendly experiences.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Economic Development and Culture recommends that:

1. The Economic and Community Development Committee receive this report for information.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no current or known future year financial implications resulting from the adoption of the recommendation contained in this report.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial information as presented in the Financial Impact section.

EQUITY IMPACT

The Night Economy Internal Working Group (the Internal Working Group) recognizes the importance of ensuring that all Torontonians are represented in the discussion of issues impacting nighttime businesses and the needs of residents and people who are active at night. Its priorities were informed by the summary document of the Toronto Night Economy Review consultations, which included targeted outreach to Indigenous, Black, racialized, and equity-deserving communities, including women, 2SLGBTQ+, youth, people with disabilities, and people who live with low incomes.

In 2024, the Internal Working Group aligned its priorities with SafeTO and Our Health, Our City to strengthen and protect community safety, well-being, and mental health for all Torontonians. It also aimed to address equity and inclusion barriers to accessing nightlife and enhance livability for everyone who works at night or is interested in cultural or social experiences after dark. To ensure a geographic equity-based approach to industry and resident input on the priorities of the night economy, the Night Economy External Working Group has member representation from different geographic areas including Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, and Toronto and East York.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on December 13, 2023, City Council adopted the item 2023.EC8.14 - Supporting the Growth of the Night Economy. Among other things, City Council requested staff to report back to the Economic and Community Development Committee in the fourth quarter of 2024 on the Night Economy External Working Group as well as the work completed by the Night Economy Internal Working Group.
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EC8.14>

At its meeting on December 13, 2023, City Council adopted the item 2023.PH8.2 - Recommended Amendments to Zoning By-laws for Bars, Restaurants and Entertainment Venues as part of the Night Economy Review - Final Report, which aligned zoning regulations to support the modernized licensing regulations in 2023.EC8.13 and to support the night economy.
<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.PH8.2>

At its meeting on November 27, 2023, the Board of Health adopted item 2023.HL8.1 - Our Health, Our City: A Mental Health, Substance Use, Harm Reduction and Treatment

Strategy for Toronto, which presented a city-wide, comprehensive approach to help address mental health and substance use related issues to guide the City for the next five years.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.HL8.1>

At its meeting on September 22, 2021, the Economic and Community Development Committee adopted the item 2021.EC24.6 - Emerging Entertainment Areas Outside of the Downtown Core, which outlined how the City would support the growth of night economy activity and cultural vibrancy.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.EC24.6>

At its meeting on July 14, 2021, City Council adopted item 2021.EX25.4 - SafeTO: Toronto's Ten-Year Community Safety and Well Being Plan, which is a comprehensive plan that reimagines core elements of community safety and well-being to shift the City's paradigm from a reliance on reactive emergency response to a culture of proactive prevention.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2021.EX25.4>

At its meeting on June 29, 2020, City Council adopted the item 2020.EC12.12 - City-owned Spaces for DIY (Do-It-Yourself) Music Organizations, which described how access to City-owned spaces would advance the needs of equity-deserving communities and support the goals of the Toronto Nightlife Action Plan.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2020.EC12.12>

At its meeting on July 16, 2019, City Council adopted the item 2019.EC6.8 - Strengthening Toronto's Nighttime Economy, which advocated for collaboration between various City divisions to enhance social, cultural, and economic activities between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., and support for implementing the Toronto Nightlife Action Plan.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2019.EC6.8>

COMMENTS

1. Background

The night economy – which accounts for an estimated 300,000+ jobs¹ in Toronto across a range of sectors – includes all activities taking place between dusk and dawn: dining, community and special events, performing arts, recreation, live music, festivals, shift work, retail, transit, and emergency services. Toronto's night economy provides residents and visitors with employment opportunities, cultural activities, and entertainment experiences. Beyond the economic benefits, a strong night economy increases opportunities for communities to gather and strengthen social bonds among residents. Enhancing and safeguarding Torontonians' experiences between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. not only improves civic pride and sense of well-being, but also strengthens Toronto's position as a leading global economic and cultural jurisdiction.

¹ Source: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/8f30-CityPlanning-Toronto-Employment-Survey-2023-Bulletin.pdf>

In 2019, City Council adopted item 2019.EC6.8 - Strengthening Toronto's Nighttime Economy, thereby directing the implementation of proposed actions in the [Toronto Nightlife Action Plan](#). The adoption of the item resulted in the formation of the Night Economy Internal Working Group (the Internal Working Group) and the Night Economy External Working Group (the External Working Group).

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the two Working Groups focused on the City's response to sustain nighttime businesses. The Internal Working Group provided strategies, short-term actions, and interpreted and communicated health guidelines to promote on-going operations, mitigate the impact of closures, and support the industry during a period of re-opening and recovery. The External Working Group served as a valuable conduit for City staff to communicate with nighttime stakeholders on questions related to government and public health response, and regulations around COVID-19. Post-pandemic, the priorities re-focused on the recommendations in 2019.EC6.8. The Working Groups collaborated to generate a timeline, outreach strategy, and consultation process that led to the [Toronto Night Economy Review](#) (the 2023 Night Economy Review).

In 2023, City Council adopted item 2023.EC8.14 - Supporting the Growth of the Night Economy alongside other reports from City Planning (CP) and Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS). Following the adoption of these reports, the work of the Internal Working Group has focused on engaging with SafeTO; Our Health, Our City; and the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), with a view to ensuring that health, safety, and public transit are considered throughout night economy initiatives.

2. The Internal Working Group

Membership

In 2023, the Internal Working Group consisted of representatives from CP; Economic Development and Culture (EDC); MLS; Social Development, Finance and Administration (SDFA); Toronto Building (TB); Toronto Fire Services (TFS); Toronto Paramedic Services; Toronto Police Services; Toronto Public Health (TPH); Transportation Services (TS); the TTC; and the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario.

In 2024, the membership of the Internal Working Group was expanded to address the next steps in 2023.EC8.14. CreateTO and the following City divisions joined the Internal Working Group to advance the priorities determined through the 2023 Night Economy Review: Corporate Real Estate Management (CREM); Indigenous Affairs Office; Parks, Forestry and Recreation; and Solid Waste Management Services. To align considerations around the delegation of authority for the endorsement of temporary liquor licences, the City Clerk's Office also became a member of the Internal Working Group.

The current membership of the Internal Working Group and its terms of reference are contained in Attachment 1.

To date, the Internal Working Group has conducted three of its four quarterly meetings in 2024. To respond to the Council directive in 2023.EC8.14, the work completed by the Internal Working Group, as reported by the member divisions, is as follows:

Our Health, Our City

In Q4 of 2023 the Board of Health launched [Our Health, Our City: A Mental Health, Substance Use, Harm Reduction and Treatment Strategy for Toronto](#). The comprehensive city-wide strategy aims to reduce the health and social impacts of substance use-related harms and promote the mental health and wellbeing of every Torontonian. The strategy was presented by TPH at the Night Economy Town Hall in January 2024. The Our Health, Our City strategy and relevant resources are included in the Good Neighbour Guide for Late-Night Businesses (contained in Attachment 2). TPH staff will continue working in close partnership with the night economy working groups and will participate in the 2025 Night Economy Town Hall information marketplace.

TPH staff also collaborated with representatives from the Internal Working Group to share any current and upcoming initiatives being taken in alignment with the Our Health, Our City strategy. This input helped inform TPH's progress report on Our Health, Our City which will be presented to the Board of Health in November 2024.

TPH staff will attend the Q1 2025 External Working Group meeting to learn more about the range of supports that may be helpful for nightlife industries including live music venues, nightclubs, raves, festivals and events, bars, and other entertainment spaces.

SafeTO: Toronto's Ten-Year Community Safety and Well-Being Plan (SafeTO)

SDFA staff joined the Internal Working Group to provide advice on how the divisional members can leverage the SafeTO goals and actions for safety and well-being planning and to connect with multi-sector partners.

SafeTO is a provincially legislated and Council-directed comprehensive community safety and well-being plan for Toronto that works to build individual and community resilience, improve services and systems of care, and positively impact the lives of all Torontonians. SafeTO will advance 26 actions across seven strategic goals that provides a road map for how social systems that serve Torontonians (including City divisions and agencies, multi-sector partners, community-based agencies, residents, and other levels of government) can work collaboratively to support community safety and well-being. The plan was adopted by a number of institutions, including the Toronto Police Service Board and the TTC Board. Work to support Toronto's night economy advances several SafeTO actions, including action 6.3 - Implement Place-based Economic Empowerment and Development Approaches.

SDFA presented the Ten-Year Community Safety and Well-Being Plan, the Implementation Plan, and prioritized programs at the Night Economy Town Hall in January 2024 and will attend the 2025 Night Economy Town Hall. The SafeTO webpage and available resources have been included in the Good Neighbour Guide for Late-Night Businesses. The SafeTO Community Safety and Well-Being planning

framework will enable the Internal Working Group to apply a holistic approach, ensuring the safety and well-being of all who participate in the night economy.

Attachment 3 provides full descriptions of the following SafeTO resources which support the night economy, including how participants in the night economy can access these resources:

- Mental Health Crisis Response - Toronto Community Crisis Service
- Violence Response and Recovery - Community Crisis Response Program
- Acutely Elevated Risk - Furthering Our Community by Uniting Services
- Community Safety and Well-Being and Business Improvement Areas - SafeTObia

In addition, two engagement structures will be leveraged to promote priority alignment with the night economy:

- The Violence Prevention Toronto Advisory will be established in Q4 2024 to provide guidance on multi-sector violence prevention, intervention, and response and recovery efforts.
- The SafeTObia Advisory consists of Business Improvement Area (BIA) leads who are engaged and are operating pilots to advance SafeTO.

SDFA will work with the External Working Group to promote alignments with the priorities of the night economy and assess their participation.

Furthermore, the TTC is collaborating with SDFA, TPH, Toronto Shelter Services and Support (TSSS), Toronto Police Service, and community partners to advance SafeTO goals and actions and improve community safety and well-being on public transit. With the majority of public spaces inaccessible during night hours, the TTC is preparing plans to support vulnerable people this 2024/2025 winter season. Some of these supports include the continued use of TSSS' Streets to Homes teams to connect with underhoused people looking for shelter. Additional assistance will be provided by the Loft Community Services M-DOT team, who provide medical aid, support with mental health issues, and case management.

Public Transit and the Night Economy

Guided by the 5-Year Service and Customer Experience Action Plan (5YSCXAP), the Annual Service Plan (ASP) serves as TTC's blueprint for service changes in the upcoming year. It outlines recommendations for new and revised routes, informed by input and engagement with TTC customers, front-line staff, the Working Groups, and the broader community. The 2025 ASP has been developed through a combination of technical analysis, operational insights, and consultations with the public and stakeholders, including priority customer groups identified in the 5YSCXAP.

As part of recent ASPs, TTC has proposed several changes across the Blue Night Network. Since the pandemic, a significant increase in ridership on Blue Night routes was observed, particularly in emerging industrial and commercial areas. TTC's objectives with these changes is to expand service accessibility and connectivity to

these areas, adjust routes in high-ridership corridors, and complete the network in the eastern part of Scarborough.

Service changes, route adjustments, and new routes to the Blue Night Network will be taking place across the city with a heavy focus in Scarborough and Etobicoke. In addition to changes in the ASP, TTC is also proposing several adjustments to existing services that would go into effect in winter 2025. These adjustments include "10 minutes or better" transit service as directed in item 2019.EC6.8. In January 2025, service frequency will also be standardized on the overnight streetcar network to make schedules easier to understand from a trip planning perspective, and to enable better connections between routes. A detailed description of the changes and intended impacts are contained in Attachment 4.

Item 2021.EC24.6 - Emerging Entertainment Areas Outside of the Downtown Core included a list of areas suggested by do-it-yourself event organizers which were outside the downtown core and which were in zones permitting entertainment uses. The Internal Working Group has supplemented this list by including the Blue Night Network routes servicing those areas, including the proposed TTC adjustments. The updated list is contained in Attachment 5, which also includes information on which ones of the proposed new and altered routes service commercial zones that may qualify for licensing of entertainment establishments. This list will be further updated once the 2025 ASP is approved through the TTC Board and will then be used as a reference document for the Internal Working Group

Responses to the Council directives in 2023.EC8.13 and 2023.PH8.2, will be provided within future staff reports as directed by City Council. The in-progress status of work by the Internal Working Group, as reported by the member divisions, is as follows:

Area-specific Review of Zoning Regulations

Through 2023.PH8.2, Council directed CP to initiate a review of zoning regulations, including community consultation and engagement, for nightclubs on Lake Shore Boulevard West between Palace Pier Court and Forty Third Street and report back to the Etobicoke York Community Council by Q4 2024. A similar review was directed for Ward 20, Scarborough Southwest, for the area between Victoria Park Avenue, Eglinton Avenue, and Markham Road.

The community consultation and engagement component of each review is intended to gauge public support for nightclub permissions, while providing an opportunity for residents, visitors, and business owners to articulate general comments, identify areas of concern, and ask questions about the new regulatory framework. The community consultation and engagement strategy for the review of nightclub permissions along Lake Shore Boulevard West in Etobicoke includes a public online survey, which was advertised through the local ward Councillor's newsletters, made available on the study website, and sent directly to the local BIAs.

The feedback from the online survey and in-person consultation meetings will be considered in a forthcoming report to Etobicoke York Community Council in Q4 2024 in response to Council's direction. A similar community consultation and engagement

strategy will be advanced in Q4 2024 for the review of nightclub permissions in Ward 20, Scarborough Southwest.

Updates on Directives in 2019.EC6.8 - Strengthening Toronto's Nighttime Economy:

Flexible Event Spaces

TB, in consultation with TFS, hired a Building Code consultant to undertake an analysis of the Ontario Building Code requirements to identify any potential alternative solutions for flexible event spaces or the use of unconventional² spaces for pop-up (i.e. temporary single-use) events. The work with the Code consultant is nearing completion.

List of City-Owned spaces

CREM and CreateTO joined the Internal Working Group in 2024 to advance the work of identifying an inventory of City-owned spaces suitable for affordable leases to music entrepreneurs and do-it-yourself music organizations, per Council directions in 2020.EC12.12 and 2022.EC27.5. Identifying City-owned properties for cultural uses also emerged as a key priority during community engagement for *Culture Connects: An Action Plan for Culture in Toronto 2025-2035 (Culture Connects)*, and as such opening City-owned spaces for short- and long-term use by cultural organizations was included as one of *Culture Connect's* urgent actions. Consultation participants for both the 2023 Night Economy Review and *Culture Connects* further communicated the need for access to affordable space.

Music and cultural sector criteria for suitable City-owned spaces include affordability, proximity to late-night transit options, appropriate zoning allowing intended uses, physical building condition, and required funding for renovations and operations. In Q4 of 2024, CREM provided EDC with a master inventory inclusive of all City-owned properties. Further work is required to identify the properties most suitable for cultural use by filtering the listings into the following categories: properties requiring significant capital investment; properties already identified and committed for other City priorities; properties already leased long-term to other external organizations; properties to which prohibitive zoning restrictions apply and rezoning would not be supported; and properties that are untenable for other reasons as determined by CREM, CreateTO, and/or EDC.

Transportation Options Specific to the Night Economy

Council direction in 2019.EC6.8 requested the Internal Working Group to explore opportunities for additional transportation options specific to the night economy. In 2024, Council adopted item 2024.IE.13.1 - Micromobility Strategy for Toronto. TS will work with the Internal Working Group to consider the needs and impacts of micromobility vehicles, such as safety, user experience, and food delivery services in the context of

² The term "unconventional" in this recommendation was interpreted by staff to mean spaces not currently zoned for entertainment use (e.g. light industrial properties, warehouses, and other spaces often appealing to do-it-yourself event organizers).

the night economy. Transportation options and facilities for cyclists was added to the Good Neighbour Guide for Late-Night Businesses.

3. The External Working Group

As directed by Council in 2023.EC8.14, EDC has enhanced stakeholders communication around the night economy by conducting regular meetings of the External Working Group.

The membership of the External Working Group, with a total of 24 members, was updated to include broad geographic representation to reflect the interests of Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, and Toronto and East York. The current membership includes representatives from resident associations, BIAs, unions, cultural organizations, community groups, as well as gig workers, and owners/operators of businesses active at night. The Night Economy Champion, Councillor Paul Ainslie, is both a member and the Chair of the External Working Group. The current membership of the External Working Group and its terms of reference are contained in Attachment 6.

At the first meeting of the External Working Group on July 31, 2024, EDC, SDFA, FIFA Secretariat Office, and TTC made presentations and sought members' advice and feedback on the following topics:

- the Good Neighbour Guide for Late-Night Businesses (second edition);
- supporting site-specific community safety and well-being needs for residents, workers, businesses, and visitors at night;
- establishing program advisory bodies and legacy planning to inform Toronto's hosting of the FIFA Men's World Cup in 2026; and
- participation in and promotion of the Blue Night Network public consultation and online survey (focusing on service routes outside of the downtown core).

Actions from this meeting included scheduling night visits to various areas of the city and exploring the establishment of topic-specific sub-committees. At the October 2024 External Working Group meeting, a consensus was not reached regarding the determination of sub-committees. A survey will be circulated to all members to assess whether and how to proceed with sub-committees.

Scheduled night visits have taken place at the Geary Art Crawl (September 22, 2024) and along the King Street West portion of the Toronto Downtown West BIA (October 18, 2024). Night visits to discuss supports to enhance the Night Economy are being scheduled for BIAs within Scarborough, North York, Etobicoke, York, and the Danforth. Night visits typically include the Night Economy Champion, the local Councillor of the ward being visited, a member of the Internal Working Group, and a member(s) of the External Working Group and/or a BIA.

The External Working Group's feedback at the July meeting indicated that parking lots are a safety concern. Subsequently, item IE17.5 - Enhanced Nighttime Security at Green P Parking Facilities was adopted with amendments at the October 22, 2024 meeting of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee to be considered by City Council on November 13, 2024.

Questions and comments arising from the first meeting of the External Working Group on July 31, 2024, were discussed at the September meeting of the Internal Working Group. Quarterly staggered meetings will continue to take place to create and maintain effective communication between the two Working Groups.

In addition to the topic of sub-committees, the October meeting of the External Working Group also included updates from the Geary Arts Crawl and King Street night visits, exploring the newly launched City webpage on licensing and zoning changes for restaurant, bars, and entertainment venues, a discussion around the upcoming Taylor Swift concert series, and information from the City Clerk's Office on the development of a filterable map of approved temporary and occasional liquor licenses.

4. Night Economy Annual Town Hall

On January 17, 2024, the Internal Working Group hosted its inaugural town hall at the Beanfield Centre at Exhibition Place. The Night Economy Town Hall (the Town Hall) provided an opportunity for the public and nighttime business operators to hear from City officials and to identify additional sector-specific needs. The Town Hall featured presentations from CP, EDC, and MLS, which shared the findings of the 2023 Night Economy Review public consultation series and the resulting Council-approved bylaw amendments to modernize current zoning and business licensing regulations for restaurant, bars, and entertainment venues. SDFA and TPH presented their respective city-wide strategies to highlight safety, harm reduction, and community well-being for participants of the night economy.

The Town Hall welcomed over 100 in-person and over 200 virtual attendees. Feedback from the post-event survey confirmed participant representation from the following categories: accommodation industry; artist/performer/musician; BIAs; cultural and/or event producers; live music/performance venues; do-it-yourself professionals; resident associations; Local Arts Service Organizations; and members of the public not affiliated with a resident association.

Registration information showed that registrants represented a broad array of interests, including the public sector, destination marketing organizations, businesses, restaurants and bars, post-secondary institutions, museums/theatres/attractions, other arts and culture organizations, and community groups.

The collaboration platform Slido was utilized as engagement and feedback tool throughout the Town Hall. Presenting divisions gained valuable insight on their programs, policies and/or strategic plans. Following the presentation portion of the Town Hall, an open Slido question and answer session generated over 300 night economy-focused inquiries from in-person and virtual attendees. A panel of Internal Working Group members responded to questions related to last calls, public transit, public community spaces, live music venues, and liquor licences. Outstanding questions were communicated to the applicable City divisions and factored into the Internal Working Group's key priorities for 2024.

As directed by Council, the Internal Working Group works with the Toronto Music Advisory Committee (TMAC) to ensure engagement with music industry stakeholders. Internal Working Group members attended the February meeting of the TMAC to present a summary of the Town Hall inclusive of the presentation content, participant feedback, and applicable licensing and zoning bylaw amendments that impact the music industry.

The 2025 Town Hall is currently being planned for March 24. Building on the success of the 2024 Town Hall and incorporating feedback from past participants and the Working Groups, the 2025 Town Hall may include the items below:

- a networking session and information marketplace consisting of Internal Working Group operational staff to directly engage attendees with night economy inquires;
- an update from MLS and CP on the upcoming implementation of licensing and zoning bylaw regulations for restaurant, bars, and entertainment venues on January 1, 2025;
- an industry panel discussion moderated by City staff; and
- remarks from the Night Economy Champion.

Additional details will be confirmed through consultation with the Working Groups and the Night Economy Champion.

5. The Good Neighbour Guide for Late-Night Businesses (the Guide)

The first iteration of the Guide was launched in February 2024. The Guide was developed by EDC in collaboration with multiple City divisions represented in the Internal Working Group. It provides information and resources to late-night businesses (e.g. live music venues, nightclubs, bars, and restaurants) on operating a safe establishment that is also an asset to the surrounding community.

Topics in the Guide include various means to strengthen relationships between residents and their commercial neighbours, including minimizing sound and noise, managing transportation impacts, and addressing security concerns related to venues. The Guide includes all considerations requested by Council in 2023.PH8.2 and 2023.EC8.13, such as contact information for resident associations, the suggestion for operators to inform patrons of transit options serving the venue, and a recommendation for late-night businesses intending to establish a new nightclub outside Council parameters to include a plan to adhere to the best practices laid out in the Guide as a part of their application.

The Guide is available on the City's webpages on the Night Economy, the Music Office, and Changes to Licensing and Zoning Bylaws for Restaurants, Bars, and Entertainment Venues. Copies of the Guide were also emailed directly to the TMAC, Councillors, private sector stakeholders, the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA), resident associations, as well as subscribers to EDC e-newsletters. The Guide was presented to the Internal Working Group, the Toronto Attractions Council, and Tourism SkillsNet Ontario. MLS' Bylaw Enforcement Officers use the Guide as part of their education-first approach to achieve compliance when engaging business owners/operators of bars, restaurants, and entertainment venues.

An updated version of the Guide was produced in October 2024 to incorporate the feedback from the two Working Groups. This edition includes the updates to the Noise Exemption Permit process, information on City-led construction projects, and links to the recently launched City webpage on licensing and zoning changes for restaurant, bars, and entertainment venues. The Guide has been added to other City webpages that describe the licensing application requirements for late-night businesses included in the 2023 Night Economy Review, e.g. Eating Establishments such as restaurants, bars, pubs, etc.; and Nightclub/Entertainment Establishments.

6. Communications

To streamline and expedite external communication intended for City staff, the night economy email account (nighteconomy@toronto.ca) is monitored to direct incoming inquiries to the applicable City contact and/or webpage. In 2024, over 40 emails specific to the topic of the night economy have been resolved through coordinated responses from Internal Working Group members. Outreach has also resulted in communication with other municipalities, including the City of Vancouver and Georges River Council in New South Wales, Australia.

A Listserv dedicated to the night economy was created and added to the City webpage on the Night Economy webpage to provide a channel for industry, residents, and the public to stay informed of key updates, information, and resources connected to the City's multi-divisional night economy initiatives. This webpage was updated to detail the 2023 Night Economy Review consultation process and summary of findings, include the presentation from and a recording of the 2024 Town Hall, highlight the membership of the External Working Group, and provide the link to the Guide.

Additionally, EDC newsletters promote professional development opportunities with industry partners and provide night economy stakeholders with applicable information such as the Guide, the Town Hall, TTC's Blue Night Network consultations, and the Music Compass pilot program.

7. Next Steps

- EDC will continue working with CREM and CreateTO to filter the master inventory of City-owned properties to identify spaces most suitable for cultural use.
- TB will continue to work in consultation with TFS and the Internal Working Group on next steps regarding any identified alternative solutions or compliance options for the use of unconventional spaces for pop-up events.
- The Internal Working Group will host the 2025 Town Hall. Planned to take place three months after the implementation of licencing and zoning changes for restaurant, bars, and entertainment venues, the 2025 Town Hall will provide an opportunity for the City to hear from the public and nighttime business operators on what additional supports are required and to identify outstanding sector-specific needs.
- The External Working Group will continue to schedule night visits to neighbourhoods throughout the city to gain insights into the unique needs of businesses, residents, cultural and community organizations at night. In consultation with the Night

Economy Champion, the Working Groups will determine future priorities based on the findings of the 2024/2025 night visits.

- The Guide will continue to be updated as needed to provide late-night businesses with information, resources, and best practices.

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SIGNATURE

Patrick Tobin
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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Membership and Terms of Reference of the Night Economy Internal Working Group

Attachment 2 - Good Neighbour Guide for Late-Night Businesses (October 2024)

Attachment 3 - SafeTO Resources Supporting the Night Economy

Attachment 4 - Toronto Transit Commission Annual Service Plan and Blue Night Network

Attachment 5 - Identification of Spaces Outside the Downtown Core - TTC Routes

Attachment 6 - Membership and Terms of Reference of the Night Economy External Working Group