



Toronto & York Region Labour Council

Submission to City of Toronto Executive Committee, Feb. 29, 2024 – exc@toronto.ca

EX12.3 Implementation of a Commercial Parking Levy

February 28, 2024

Last September, the Toronto & York Region Labour Council was pleased to see Toronto City Council direct staff to report on development of a commercial parking levy.

Today we write to support the staff proposal for specific implementation of such a levy, which includes steps to get it fully implemented next year.

The Labour Council has supported a commercial parking levy for many years, because it is a revenue tool that asks the wealthiest landowners in Toronto to pay their share. While the current proposal does not include an outright exemption for small or charitable organizations, it exempts the first ten parking spaces from the levy, achieving a similar objective.

The levy could raise up to \$150 million per year and it is factored in to the City's long-term financial forecast, so supporting the staff proposal is a responsible thing to do. Much needed additional revenues can be used to support public transit, Transform TO's climate plans, and other much-needed service improvements.

When the commercial parking levy was considered in past years, we saw pushback from big commercial, development and retail organizations – powerful interest groups that opposed stepping up and contributing. We have not yet seen organized public opposition by wealthy groups to this proposal, but there are numerous steps for the proposal to go through before it actually gets implemented sometime in 2025, so we may yet see that pushback. If there is criticism by interest groups, it will be important that they get their math right. An establishment with 20 parking spots could expect to pay around \$1,800 a year in downtown Toronto or \$900 in the rest of the City, on average.

The Toronto & York Region Labour Council urges you to recommend the proposal to City Council and ensure it moves ahead quickly.

Andria Babbington
President
Toronto & York Region Labour Council