

City Council

Motion Without Notice

MM14.16	ACTION			Ward: All
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Summit to Solve the Epidemic of Criminal Break-and-Enters Against Small Business in the City of Toronto - by Councillor Mike Colle, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mike Colle, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas, the Toronto Police Service and the Insurance Bureau of Canada to report to the Economic and Community Development Committee in the fourth quarter of 2024, on a rapid action plan to:

- a. develop a method of collecting data from break-ins to develop a communications and education campaign in conjunction with the Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas and member Business Improvement Areas for businesses on how to best prevent and combat business break-ins;
- b. examine best practices of other jurisdictions on how business break and enters are supported by the different levels of government; and
- c. examine the economic cost of small business break-ins, with information including but not limited to how best to access police resources for both prevention audits and emergency response and investigation, making more affordable security systems available on a bulk rate through Business Improvement Areas, and how to manage the negative impacts of claims on insurance rates.

Summary

Small businesses across Toronto are facing an unprecedented wave of criminal break and enters that are affecting the daily lives of these business owners who are already struggling to recover and survive in the post-COVID environment.

These small businesses owners are our friends and neighbours, and help make up the fabric of our main street communities keeping them vibrant and ensuring that we have opportunities to shop local.

Taken on their own, these selfish crimes may seem petty but they are happening at an alarming rate and have a major impact on small business owners who may not be able to afford security guards or sophisticated alarm systems. These break-ins cause a disproportionate impact on the cost of repairs, lost business and increased insurance to name a few.

This motion should be deemed urgent due to the need for immediate action at all levels of government, and the need for a joint response to crack down on these crimes and educate small business owners on the best actions to prevent the devastating effects of these break-ins.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM14.16

(<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2024/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-242941.pdf>)