



GOODERHAM & WORTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

October 23, 2024

**Toronto and East York Community Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Via email to: teycc@toronto.ca**

**Subject: Comment on 2024.TE17.32
Temporary Adjustments to Traffic and Parking Regulations for 2024 Distillery Winter Village**

Dear Members of Toronto and East York Community Council,

I am writing today on behalf of the Gooderham & Worts Neighborhood Association (GWNA). GWNA is a unified voice that serves the interests and enhances the quality of life for residents of the Distillery District.

As residents of the Distillery District, we appreciate your support for Transportation Services staff recommendations to adjust traffic flows, reconfigure streets, and restrict parking for the duration of the extended Distillery Winter Village event. These changes are important measures in helping to maintain access to our homes and vital services.

We however disagree with the Report's characterization that the Distillery Winter Village's impact on local residents will be minimal ("Similar to previous years, these changes ... while ensuring local residents will have minimal impact ..."). In recent years residents have reported it taking a half hour to travel a block to their condo parking garage when returning home from work on weekday evenings. What is of utmost concern to everyone in the area, last year residents reported interruptions in vital home care services when their nurses and PSWs were prevented from entering the area or unable to find parking in the vicinity, and some delays to emergency vehicles attempting to gain access.

We understand that these disruptions are not intentional and recognize that the Distillery District puts effort into mitigation plans for their now 8 week-long event. However, despite the event organizers' efforts, year after year residents experience, and report to organizers, disruptions from inconsistent execution of traffic and crowd management plans, as well as confusing signage. GWNA has held post event debriefing community meetings with representatives of the Distillery District and endeavours to provide constructive feedback during annual pre-event planning meetings. We continue to encourage the Distillery District to reduce and properly limit attendee numbers on the busiest days and improve the quality, clarity, reach and timeliness of communications to event attendees as the recommended traffic adjustments and management plans have repeatedly proven insufficient to mitigate the impact of thousands of extra visitors to the block during the event's busy times.



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The Distillery Winter Village is a major event for the City of Toronto and beloved by many, including many residents within the neighbourhood. However, additional measures and more consistent execution by organizers and their contractors are needed to make it a more consistently positive experience for visitors and residents alike. GWNA will gladly provide input to Transportation Services' planned post-event stakeholder consultation to evaluate the traffic management plan.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Neil Betteridge
President
Gooderham & Worts Neighborhood Association
president@gwna.ca

CC: Deputy Mayor Malik; Vienna O'Shea, Ward 10; Councillor Moise; Macy Parakh, Ward 13; Edward LaRusic, Ward 13.