



January 27, 2025

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario, M5H 2N2
Attention: c/o Cathrine Regan

RE: EX20.7 Update on the Implementation of a Commercial Parking Levy

Dear Mayor Chow and Members of Executive Committee,

We join with a number of civil society organizations, in calling on Executive Committee to support the implementation of a commercial parking levy as soon as possible. The levy is a much-needed revenue tool that has been studied in Toronto for the past ten years, and is already in use in several cities around the world.

The City of Toronto is faced with a \$1.2 billion budget shortfall, a 2¢ per hour levy per parking space --- which is one tenth of what is in place in Montréal and Melbourne --- would help bring in \$108 million annually and produce revenue equivalent to a 2.3% property tax hike.

We note that the commercial parking levy being levied on larger parking would also align to rectify the unfair parking situation right now whereby customers of main street establishments pay for street and lot parking, whereas customers of malls and big box stores do not. With a commercial parking tax, at least the mall and big box establishments would pay, whether or not they passed this on to their customers.

A commercial parking levy, unlike several other “revenue tools” does not require provincial approval. And from a climate perspective, the parking levy can help fund much needed transit repairs.

We understand that Councillor Matlow plans to put forward a motion requiring the City of Toronto to do the necessary counting of parking spaces and other work required to permit implementation of this effective revenue tool in 2026 .

We recommend::

- **that Executive Committee and City Council support Councillor Matlow's motion rather than the staff recommendation to receive the report for information.**

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cathie Macdonald
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cc: Stephen Conforti, Chief Financial Officer & Treasurer
Jason Thorne, Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning
Toronto Area Business Improvement Association (TABIA)
CORRA, FoSTRA. SUN

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 250,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.