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Infrastructure and Environment Committee
City of Toronto
iec@toronto.ca

April 7, 2025

Dear Members of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee,

We hope this message finds you well. We are writing to you on behalf of the Ossington Business Improvement Area (BIA) to express our support for Item 2025.IE20.11, regarding a proposal to explore the change to the night of garbage collection for the West-End, including Ossington, Queen West, and College Promenade areas.

Ossington Avenue has been internationally recognized as one of the coolest streets in the world, and we are incredibly proud of our vibrant and dynamic local economy. Our community is home to a wide variety of businesses, particularly along the Ossington Strip, which boasts a high concentration of curblane CaféTOs and patios that play a crucial role in the city's tourism, nightlife and economic vitality.

Thursday through Saturday are the busiest nights for hospitality businesses in our area. Pedestrian traffic and patio goers are at their peak. However, this presents a challenge when garbage bins are brought out for sidewalk collection during these prime service hours. The sidewalks are not only cluttered with countless garbage bins, but with copious bags of waste and overflow recycling as well. Pedestrians maneuver their way through this obstacle course as the sidewalk is reduced to half its width and patio goers dine alongside the garbage.

The sensory experience of enjoying a meal or drink outside is unfortunately compromised by the strong and often unpleasant smells, especially during the summer heat. Instead of admiring the unique architecture and features of Ossington, the garbage has become the main attraction. This can significantly affect the experience for both locals and tourists, potentially detracting from the atmosphere that makes Ossington such a beloved destination. It would be advantageous to consider a change to a non-peak night for the necessary garbage collection service.

The Ossington BIA is eager to be part of any consultations to explore how we can best address this issue, including the possibility of changing the collection day. A Tuesday or Wednesday collection day would be most beneficial for our community, as some businesses are closed on Mondays, which could create logistical challenges if the collection were moved to that day. We believe that by finding a more suitable day for garbage collection, we can support our local



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businesses while enhancing the overall experience of our neighborhood for both residents and visitors alike.

As a part of Toronto's Night Economy, it is essential that we take a holistic view of city services to ensure they align with the needs of our growing and evolving nightlife scene. We trust that the committee will carefully consider how such changes might create a better, more vibrant urban environment for all.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. We look forward to engaging with you further in the consultation, exploration process and working together to find the best solution for the Ossington community.

Kind Regards,

Meg Marshall
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