

Letter of Support

The Beach BIA

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July 23, 2025

City Clerk
Councillor Brad Bradford
Councillor Stephen Holyday
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, Suite C44
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: Letter of Support – MM32.25 – Amendment to Section 742-3.2 of the Toronto Municipal Code (CaféTO)

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of The Beach Business Improvement Area (BIA), I am writing to express our strong support for Motion MM32.25, which proposes an amendment to Section 742-3.2 of the Toronto Municipal Code governing Sidewalk Cafés and the CaféTO program.

The business example, Tiarré's Brunch & Bistro, is a valued member of The Beach BIA and a vibrant contributor to our Queen Street East commercial corridor. The delay and disruption they faced this summer, despite their longstanding history and full compliance with city requirements, underscores a deeper problem with the current public notice process.

We commend your leadership in bringing forward this motion to require objections from at least 25% of notified residents before an application is automatically refused. This change strikes a more reasonable balance between public consultation and economic sustainability.

The Beach BIA has consistently supported the CaféTO program and the transformation of our public realm to support small business recovery, vibrancy, and safe outdoor dining. Our neighbourhood has one of the highest commercial strip levy rates in the city and continues to invest in shared assets such as parkettes, planters, patios, and activations to encourage economic growth. Patios are not only essential to our members' bottom line, but also help build a sense of community and place.

We funded our own Streetscape Master Plan in partnership with the City of Toronto through the Capital Cost-Share Program and have aligned our priorities with city planning and public realm improvement goals. Overregulation and inconsistent policy applications place an undue burden on our businesses and undermine these collaborative efforts.

The proposed amendment in MM32.25 restores clarity and fairness to the CaféTO permitting process. It acknowledges that while community input is vital, the voices of the majority should carry the weight of decision-making, especially when businesses are following the rules and investing in our shared streetscape.

We fully support this motion and urge Council to approve the amendment and re-opening of Item 2024.EX18.7 as proposed.

Sincerely,
Russell Ward
Chair, Board of Directors
The Beach Business Improvement Area