



May 1, 2025

Re: TE21.31 2024 Distillery Winter Village: Post-Event Review

Dear Toronto and East York Community Council members:

The Distillery Winter Village is an important event in Toronto's winter calendar, marking the holiday season in our City. It supports our local businesses, while bringing holiday cheer to thousands of Torontonians and visitors.

The market has grown in length of days and number of visitors. This has had unique challenges for the residents and neighbours of the Distillery who also should be able to get to work, get deliveries and care they need at home, and host their own holiday celebrations with their friends and family. We want this neighbourhood to be successful all year round.

Our work is to continually ensure Toronto can host vibrant, exciting events and festivals and that residents can rest, and get around their neighbourhoods as well.

In my engagement with City staff on these reports, I understand that more tools are needed as a City to best manage these kinds of events that take place on private property, and have impacts on streets and public spaces. With an update coming on the Festival Strategy in Q4 this year, having specifics on how we can ensure festivals can be successful and manage the spill-over effects on City services and surrounding communities will be a benefit to all. I will be moving the following recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. City Council direct the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, in consultation with the General Manager, Transportation Services and Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to develop a set of criteria for managing festivals and events on private property as part of their Festival Strategy reporting back in Q4 2025 that includes:
 - a. Appropriate durations of City-provided exemptions and permissions, based on size of event, hours of operation, alignment with holidays, locations, and community impacts
 - b. Requirements for community consultation, engagement, and issue-solving
2. City Council direct General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to consult with the Distillery District on a year-round activation strategy.

Sincerely,

Ausma Malik
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City Councillor, Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York

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