

April 8, 2026

Councillor Alejandra Bravo, Chair
Economic and Community Development Committee,
Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West,
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

EC27.2 - Review of Toronto's Street Vending and Artists By-laws

Dear Chair and Members of the Economic and Community Development Committee,

The Yonge North York Business Improvement Area (BIA) represents over 1,600 business and commercial properties. Our BIA boundaries run along the Yonge Street corridor from Hwy 401 to Finch Station, and is northern Toronto's primary office, retail, service, and hospitality node.

The hospitality sector continues to be impacted by a variety of broader economic challenges as well as increased expenses and decreased consumer discretionary spending over the last few years. Currently, it is a difficult time to introduce further competition to the struggling restaurant sector in Toronto.

The proposed bylaw changes will further strain bricks and mortar businesses that contribute to the city's vibrancy and diverse cultural offerings. They also contribute to the commercial levies of BIAs citywide, which finance investments in main street festivals, public realm beautification, and streetscaping.

We request your support and further consideration to strengthening recovery of the local economy by:

- Retaining important minimum existing distance requirements at the least. Ideally further reviewing them with the objective of creating a more considered and greater distance from bricks and mortar restaurants, counter service, and other food and drink establishments.
- Taking a similar approach, to BIA festivals and event venues, to avoid negative impacts to the investment and financial viability of these initiatives.
- Choosing a more conservative approach to the proposed significant extension of vending hours.
- Implementing a model whereby all commercial street vendors contribute their fair share through an appropriate sustainability fee, in lieu of a levy, to BIAs that invest in main street communities.
- Mitigating issues that may arise at the local level, by including more robust verbiage in the policies framing BIAs as part of the permitting approval process, including for mobile vending.
- Allocating more resources and personnel to reduce ongoing issues with extended timelines for bylaw officers to conduct an on site investigation. Also, examine supporting methods to ensure report submissions from the public are enforceable and deter bad actors promptly.
- Deferring the introduction of non-food vending to first evaluate impacts of other proposed changes.

For further discussion or should you have any questions, please contact Laura Burnham, Executive Director, at l.burnham@yongenorthyork.com.

Sincerely,
The Yonge North York BIA Board of Directors

For Further Reference:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/restaurants-struggling-financially-9.7086668>

<https://globalnews.ca/video/11717158/restaurants-forced-to-reduce-hours-2>

