



MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Protecting Toronto's Live Music Venues

Moved by: Deputy Mayor Malik

Seconded by: Councillor Bravo

SUMMARY:

Toronto's live music scene is a cultural engine that has produced local and international stars. While the city boasts a vibrant collection of small and large venues, serving diverse communities, it is also facing major threats including rising rents and insurance and development pressures. Over the past few years, we've lost many live music venues in the City of Toronto and many others have been at risk, most recently Sneaky Dee's.

Many divisions at the City of Toronto have been looking at what is possible to support live music venues to continue to thrive. This motion will enable staff to continue this work, reporting back as part of our Culture Connects plan.

This motion is urgent to enable staff to begin work to meet the report back timelines.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Request the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, and the Interim Executive Director, Development Review, and any other divisions as needed, to continue efforts to address the current precarious state of live music venues, by taking proactive steps to protect existing venues and encourage establishment of new venues, such potential steps including but not be limited to: updating the Official Plan and Zoning By-laws; drafting design guidelines for mixed-use developments; exploring cultural heritage designations and land trusts; aligning with the Culture Connects and Sidewalks to Skylines action plans; consulting with industry stakeholders, venue operators and audiences; and other measures as required to support live music venues, reporting back as part of the Culture Connects report in 2027.

July 29, 2026