Advancing Implementation of the Long-Term Financial Plan - Revenue Opportunities

Communication from: Robert Zaichkowski

November 27, 2026

Greetings, Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of the Executive Committee:

RE: EX1.3 (Advancing Implementation of the Long-Term Financial Plan - Revenue Opportunities)

Given the $1.1 billion budget shortfall the City of Toronto faces and the Ford governments unwillingness to pursue a second new deal, I appreciate this acknowledgement of the need to pursue new revenue tools to ensure long-term financial sustainability. I wish to reaffirm my support for a commercial parking levy which could raise $150 million per year and is something groups like the Toronto Environmental Alliance and TTCriders have long called for. Not to mention, it is already in use in cities around the world from Montréal to New York City. While I can understand the need for time to take the steps necessary to implement such a levy, I would encourage that everything be done to make this revenue tool a reality before the currently proposed launch date of January 1, 2029.

While increasing the municipal accommodation tax to 8.5% is worth investigating, I would however express caution regarding the proposed $2/month 911 levy which many submissions already expressed their objection over. There are many people with Toronto phone numbers those with 416, 647, 437, and 942 area codes who dont live in the city, so there would need to be clarification as to how this fee would end up being applied. One other consideration is that Canadians already pay amongst the highest wireless rates in the world which would make such a revenue tool less than ideal.

Even if all three revenue tools were to be pursued by 2029 as scheduled, the $273 million in annual revenue would not be sufficient to address the budget shortfall on their own and additional strategies would need to be pursued. For those Torontonians who are not supportive of these revenue tools, I would encourage them to disclose which revenue tools they would support and/or which programs they would support cutting in order to balance the operating budget as required by provincial legislation. The upcoming budget process is one which requires an honest conversation and putting all options on the table.

In conclusion, I encourage the Executive Committee and City Council to support the commercial parking levy and higher accommodation tax, while exercising caution over the 911 levy and continuing to investigate other revenue tools to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability. I thank you

for taking these views into consideration and feel free to contact me should you have any further questions.

Sincerely yours,
Robert Zaichkowski, CPA, CMA