



Councillor Paul W. Ainslie
City of Toronto Councillor
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

Chair, General Government Committee
Chair, Scarborough Community Council
Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo
Chair, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Chair, Federation of Ontario Public Libraries
Night Economy Champion, City of Toronto

Email: councillor_ainslie@toronto.ca

Website: www.paulainslie.com

 Councillor Paul Ainslie Scarborough-Guildwood

 Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

 @Ainslie_ward24

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City of Toronto Paves the Way for a Thriving Night Economy

Toronto, Today, The City of Toronto took bold steps to enhance its nighttime economy, recognizing its crucial role in cultural vitality, livability, and economic prosperity. With the adoption of the Toronto Nightlife Action Plan, various City divisions and agencies have collaborated to strike a balance between fostering creativity and commerce and addressing public health and order concerns in a densely populated city.

The benefits of this initiative extend beyond economic growth, tourism, and job creation. The focus is on building connections among residents, providing safe spaces for equity-deserving groups, and ensuring the well-being of workers and consumers in the hospitality sector.

“As the Mayor’s Night Economy Champion, I am proud of the extensive public consultations involving residents, workers, artists, and other stakeholders, directly influencing the recommendations in the companion reports presented to the Committee today.” Stated Councillor Paul Ainslie.

Key outcomes from these consultations include efforts to decentralize cultural activities, making them accessible to residents across the city. Close collaboration between divisions has resulted in reports informed by harm reduction work at Toronto Public Health and efforts for safer streets and communities under the SafeTO initiative.

Economic Development and Culture, alongside Municipal Licensing and Standards and City Planning, is leading enhancements to provide flexibility for restaurant operators, aligning with market trends and consumer expectations. These changes aim to support revenue generation in a sector where less than half of operators currently operate at a profit, while ensuring compliance with zoning requirements.

Recognizing nightclubs as integral to the night economy, the proposed zoning limits are robust, addressing size, height, residential proximity, and setbacks. A modern licensing regime complements zoning changes to ensure responsible business operations and positive community engagement.

Contrary to concerns, the proposed zoning limits on nightclubs are stringent, with clear provisions to prevent any adverse impact on retail communities. Instead, the city anticipates the emergence of new nightclubs contributing to a diverse and vibrant mix of businesses in local communities.

This proposal represents an excellent opportunity to leverage zoning and licensing powers to create a harmonious system. The proposed zoning changes aim to reduce red tape, protect against conflicts, and establish clear rules for businesses and residents alike.

Constituency Office
Scarborough Civic Centre
150 Borough Drive
Scarborough, ON M1P 4N7
Tel: 416-396-7222

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, Suite C52
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2
Tel: 416-392-4008
Fax: 416-392-4006

In essence, these proposed changes reflect the vision of a lively, vibrant, socially inclusive, culturally engaged, respectful, well-managed, and livable city. The City of Toronto is excited about the potential of residents and tourists exploring and enjoying the diverse night economy across Toronto's communities.

For More Information:

Paul W. Ainslie

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416-392-4008

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