

Julie Amoroso
10th Floor, West Toronto, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Letter in Support of SafeTO Implementation Plan and Recommendations

Dear Chair and members of the Executive Committee,

This letter is submitted in support of the SafeTO Implementation Plan and Recommendations going before the City of Toronto's Executive Committee on January 26, 2022.

We support the SafeTO recommendations to resource mental health crisis response; gun violence reduction programs; and supports for individuals and communities impacted by violence. Perhaps most importantly, we support the recommendation to create a shared data resource that breaks down silos in reporting and drives collaborative, full-picture analysis from a multitude of different sectors and sources. We also strongly support of the recognition in SafeTO that healthy safe neighbourhoods and communities are critical for economic development.

The need for a Community Safety and Well-being Plan, like SafeTO, that addresses neighbourhood issues of both safety and inclusion is very much needed. The pandemic has only magnified this need.

As a business community, we understand and acknowledge the need to provide support and resources to the neighbourhood's most vulnerable community members. The Core BIAs have been working in partnership for numerous years on issues impacting Downtown Toronto, its economic resilience and ensuring it is a great City to Live, Work, Play, Learn and Shop.

At the same time, we are seeing an increase in behaviours related to substance use, mental illness, poverty and homelessness on-street, made significantly worse by the ongoing pandemic. Open drug use, along with erratic and aggressive behaviours and a lack of appropriate interventions and services is having

a profoundly negative impact on our neighbourhood's sense of safety, welcome and inclusiveness – for residents, businesses, employees, students and visitors.

As always, we stand ready and willing to play our part in community-led solutions to these complex challenges.

Thank you for your attention and the opportunity to submit this letter.

Sincerely,

Downtown Yonge BIA

Waterfront BIA

Downtown West BIA

St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood BIA

Toronto Financial District BIA

Bloor Yorkville BIA

Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas: TABIA

Cc Executive Committee

Mayor Tory

Deputy City Manager, Paul Johnson

DOWNTOWN



Mark Garner
Chief Operating Officer &
Executive Director
Downtown Yonge BIA
40 Dundas Street West,
Suite 300
Toronto Ontario, M5G 2C2



WATERFRONT BIA

Tim Kocur
Executive Director
Waterfront BIA
20 Bay Street, 11th Floor,
WaterPark Place, Toronto ON
M5J 2N8

toronto downtown west Business Improvement Area

Janice Solomon
Executive Director
Toronto Downtown West BIA
119 Spadina Ave. Unit 1101,
Toronto, ON M5V 2L1

BLOORYORKVILLE

Briar de Lange
Executive Director
Bloor-Yorkville BIA
1200 Bay Street, Suite 310
Toronto, ON
M5R 2A5



TORONTO FINANCIAL DISTRICT

Grant Humes
Executive Director
Toronto Financial District BIA
100 King St. W., Suite 5700
Toronto, ON, M5X 1C7



Al Smith
Executive Director
St. Lawrence Market
Neighbourhood BIA
258 Adelaide Street East
Suite 403
Toronto, ON M5A 1N1



John Kiru
Executive Director
Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas (TABIA)
100 Princes' Blvd
Toronto, ON M6K 3C3