



Deputy Mayor

Mike Colle

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Summit on Stopping Small Business Break-Ins

Joining forces to Stop Small Business Break-Ins sweeping our City

Residents and local business owners from across the City have reached out to me concerned about the unprecedented number of break-ins happening at our neighbourhood businesses and along our main streets.

I have visited many of these businesses to hear about the break-ins and the damages they are causing.

Last week, I hosted a press conference at City Hall as a first step in raising awareness about this pervasive issue. The [press conference](#) was well attended by media outlets and provided an opportunity for businesses that have experienced break-ins to tell their stories.

There is still much more to do.

What we know about the growing number of break-ins:

- **This problem can not be solved by Toronto Police Services (TPS) alone.**
We need to work together to support what the police are doing.
- We need to **fix the current Point of Sale (POS) terminals** and how they are being exploited for fraudulent transaction because they are the main targets for the break and enters.
- We need to develop a **comprehensive outreach strategy** for small businesses to share information on safety and security prevention and what to do to recover from a break-in.
- We need to send a **strong message to the Provincial and Federal governments** that they must look at this as a serious crime that requires serious enforcement and the strengthening of laws.

This is much **more than a property crime**; it's having a devastating impact on small businesses and families.

We need to **raise public awareness and education** at a time when we are seeing an unprecedented number of these break-ins and before it gets worse.

Many small business owners have asked for my help in coordinating a response, so, **I will be hosting a summit** on stopping small business break-ins at City Hall on Friday, March 1st.

This meeting will be an opportunity to bring together stakeholders and partners such as Toronto Police Services (TPS), Crime Stoppers, Business Improvement Areas (BIAs), small and local business owners, Industry groups and City officials to discuss this crisis and how we can work together to stop these break-ins.

Please attend the summit to show your support and provide your input for developing a comprehensive action plan and response to small business break-ins.

The more people who attend, the more awareness we can bring to this issue.

You will have an opportunity to:

- Hear from experts on POS terminals,
- How you can protect yourself and your business from break-ins,
- The work of Toronto Police Service: and
- Other small business owners like you who have had to deal with these devastating break-ins.

Summit Details:

When: Friday, March 1st from 10am – 12pm

Where: Toronto City Hall, Council Chambers

RSVP to councillor_colle8@toronto.ca by February 26th

For more information and to RSVP, please contact my office at councillor_colle8@toronto.ca or (416) 338-0008. Please feel free to share the invitation.

Sincerely,



Mike Colle
Deputy Mayor Colle
City Councillor for Ward 8, Eglinton—Lawrence