



**Councillor Fletcher**  
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**Councillor Fragedakis**  
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February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

To: All BIAs, restaurants, bars, cafés and retail business operators in Toronto-Danforth

**RE: Preserving Toronto's Patio Season**

We are writing you to express our deep concern over the proposed fee increases for sidewalk cafés and marketing displays.

We have both already contacted Mayor John Tory, Tracey Cook, Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards, and Mike Williams, General Manager of Economic Development and Culture to voice our serious concerns about the proposals.

As you may know, under the proposed new fee structure cafés in our wards would experience an increase in patio permit fees of 705%. This is unacceptable, even over a five year rollout period.

The patios in Wards 29 and 30, along the Danforth and elsewhere, are a crucial part of what makes all of Toronto – Danforth a vibrant and exciting place to live and work. These streets are where neighbours come together to celebrate and to share the milestones and events that bond our community together. In the past few days you will have no doubt heard how so many Torontonians have expressed a similar view about the role that patios play in the streetscape of Toronto.

This vibrancy makes our neighbourhoods safe and attracts people from the rest of the city, province and around the world to live, work, and visit.

These unreasonable fee increase proposals have caused a great deal of consternation amongst business owners, workers and many others in our community. We do not believe it is fair or helpful to the thousands of businesses and multitude of workers that would be impacted to ask them to wait until a report comes out in April.

We have asked that City staff work quickly to revise their fee structure and update the community on a revised public consultation process. We are also asking that the City's Economic Development Unit take on a larger role in this process to make sure that larger economic issues are fully understood as these new policies and fee structures are developed.

We need to make sure that the resident enjoyment and community benefits of patios are a central consideration, not an afterthought.

The fees as currently proposed would be bad for business, bad for communities, and bad for tourism. In short, it would be bad for Toronto.

Sincerely,



Councillor Paula Fletcher  
Ward 30, Toronto-Danforth



Councillor Mary Fragedakis  
Ward 29, Toronto-Danforth

CC: Mayor John Tory  
Councillor Cesar Palacio, Chair, Licensing & Standards Committee  
Councillor Michael Thompson, Chair, Economic Development Committee  
Tracey Cook, Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards  
Mike Williams, General Manager, Economic Development and Culture  
John Kiru, TABIA  
Interested residents