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June 18, 2020

Deputy Mayor Kevin Ashe
City of Pickering
1 The Esplanade
Pickering, Ontario L1V 6K7

RE: Supporting Pickering restauranters

Dear Deputy Mayor Ashe,

On behalf of the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade, I would like to thank you and City of Pickering staff for showing leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the voice of business, the Board of Trade is staying in close contact with our membership and communicating their concerns with all levels of government.

I am writing this letter after receiving concerns from some of our restaurant members about their ability to remain profitable as their industry enters the next normal. When Durham moves into Stage 2 of recovery, restaurants which had been restricted to take-out only models will be given the all clear to operate their patios. This presents an opportunity for the City to help businesses improve on the profitability of patios.

Communities including Barrie and Hamilton have recently enacted programs waving their 2020 patio season license fees, and allowing legal restaurants to open patios in spaces including parking spaces, side yards or front yards.

It is our recommendation that the City of Pickering follow suit by waving patio licensing fees during this COVID emergency, and allowing legal restaurants to offer an outdoor dining experience (provided the Ontario Building Code, Fire Safety and business license requirements are met.)

Our organization will continue to listen to our members and stakeholders, to ensure that they have sufficient support to thrive as the economy re-opens. We look forward to continuing to work with you and all levels of government to provide support for businesses and organizations in Ajax, Pickering, and beyond.

Sincerely,

Nicole Gibson
Executive Director
Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade



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CC:

Tracy Paterson, President, Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade

Rocco Rossi, President, Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Perrin Beatty, President, Canadian Chamber of Commerce