

February 4, 2022

His Worship Mayor George Pirie
Corporation of The City of Timmins
220 Algonquin Boulevard East
Timmins, ON | P4N 1B3
Via email: george.pirie@timmins.ca

RE: SUPPORTING TIMMINS BUSINESS BY WAIVING BUSINESS LICENSE RENEWAL FEES

Dear Mayor Pirie:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the 625 members of The Chamber and the 250 members of the Downtown Timmins Business Improvement Area (BIA), I would like to extend our appreciation for your efforts in supporting the Timmins business community throughout the pandemic.

On March 20, 2020, the Chamber shared a letter to Council calling for interest-free deferrals on fees such as property taxes and water/wastewater payments for all businesses, which Council obliged, and for that, we are thankful. At that time, we also requested that Council consider waiving business-related fees. Unfortunately, having nearly surpassed two years of the pandemic, businesses are still struggling. While the provincial and federal governments offer support, it is not enough, and we believe that the City of Timmins has a unique opportunity to extend assistance.

As such, The Chamber and the Downtown Timmins BIA would like to present the following recommendations for Council's consideration. Subject to inspection approvals, Council waives business license renewal fees for one year from March 1, 2022, to February 28, 2023, for restaurants, catering businesses, public hall/event hosting facilities, and other hardest-hit businesses most recently affected by the latest lockdown measures. Council may also consider a one-time reduction of user fees and associated costs in the 2022 Operating Budget.

Finally, that Council waives the enforcement of any Zoning By-law and Site Plan Control Agreement matters relating to outdoor restaurant patios and retail display in private parking lots for the 2022 patio season to allow businesses additional space to meet social distancing guidelines and operate safely during the COVID-19 pandemic, provided that the applicable businesses register the user with the city.

The Chamber and the Downtown Timmins BIA have greatly appreciated our ability to work collaboratively as we continue to support businesses through recovery to continuity. We look forward to discussing the matter further at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Keitha Robson
Chief Administrative Officer
The Chamber.



Cindy Campbell
Executive Director
Downtown Timmins BIA



Rob Knox
2021-22 Chamber President
The Chamber.



Jamie Roach
President
Downtown Timmins BIA



The **CHAMBER.**

Cc. Councillor Mickey Auger
Councillor Michelle Boileau
Councillor Joe Campbell
Councillor John Curley
Councillor Andrew Marks
Councillor Kristin Murray
Councillor Cory Robin
Councillor Rock Whissell

