

Deputy Mayor Michael Thompson

Scarborough Centre Virtual Town Hall 2

April 23, 2020

I would like to thank everyone who participated in my Virtual Town Hall on Thursday April 23. It was a pleasure responding to your COVID-19 related questions, hearing your concerns, and ideas to keep our community safe, healthy and clean. Special thanks to MPP Christina Mitras for joining as our special guest to provide useful information on Provincial responses to COVID-19. Residents expressed their appreciation of how all levels of government have collaborated to provide help to those in need. Let's also play our part by practising social and physical distancing, staying at home, keeping in touch with your neighbours, friends and family online or by phone.

Here are some of the questions/concerns raised by residents and my responses:

Question: What is the Municipal government doing to reduce Property Taxes for small Businesses that operate from their own building but are unable to generate any business since the Shut Down?

Response: The City will suspend all pending automated withdrawals that have been scheduled for all City residents and businesses within the next 60-day period but not yet withdrawn. Customers will be advised in advance of any rescheduling of revised withdrawal due dates and amounts following the 60-day grace period. Customers who pay their taxes through their mortgage should contact their mortgage company or financial institution to understand how this grace period will affect their mortgage amount and/or mortgage payment schedule.

For all property owners who have submitted post-dated cheques for upcoming property tax instalments, all post-dated cheques will be held and not cashed until 60 days after the original instalment due date – for example, post-dated cheques intended for the April 1 instalment will be cashed on June 1, and post-dated cheques for the May 1 instalment will be cashed on July 2. Any other post-dated cheques received before May 1 will be held for a period of 60 days from the date of the cheque before being cashed.

Question: Can the Municipal Government consider a 3 month Tax waiver to encourage business continuity of smaller firms that are already in debt?

Response:

The Government of Canada is allowing all businesses to defer, until after August 31, the payment of any income tax amounts that become owing on or after March 18 and before September. This relief would apply to tax balances due, as well as instalments.

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) will allow all businesses to defer, until the end of June, any GST/HST payments or remittances as well as customs duty owing on imports. This means that no interest will apply if your payments or remittances are made by the end of June.

Question: Can the City help with a fund that could help start-ups to cover rents, condo fees, particularly in cases where landlords refuse to defer rent payments?

Response: The City has been working to enhance and expand financial supports to help tenants maintain their homes and offers supports, such as:

- Money for Emergency Housing Needs: Housing Stabilization Fund – Ontario Works or ODSP
- Interest-Free Loans for Low-Income Households Facing Eviction
- Grants for Tenants Challenging Rent Hikes, Demolitions or Condo Conversions
- Rent Reduction for Tenants in Buildings with Reduced Property Taxes
- Energy-Related Emergency Help for Low-Income Residents
- Money for Home Energy Conservation Supplies – Ontario Works
- Other Financial Help to Pay Utility Bills

Toronto Community Housing will be flexible and work with market rent and rent-geared-to-income tenants. The City directed social and affordable housing providers to be flexible, exercise discretion and work with tenants.

Rent-Geared-to-Income Subsidy

Rent-Geared-to-Income (RGI) or subsidized housing is a housing subsidy or benefit offered by the City of Toronto to make rent affordable for households. In most cases, the rent at a subsidized unit is set to be 30 per cent of a household's total monthly income before taxes and adjustments. If you receive social assistance the rent is based on the rent benefit set by the Ontario government.

Currently the number of people needing subsidized housing is greater than the number of units available. As a result, it can take years for an applicant to get housed. We encourage applicants to consider subsidized housing as a long-term housing plan, not an immediate solution to housing needs or emergency situations.

Access to Housing manages the waiting list for subsidized housing. Once an applicant reaches the top of the wait list and housing becomes available, housing providers (e.g. Toronto Community Housing Corporation) will contact the applicant.

Question: Many of us want to support local businesses as best we can right now. The Digital main street is not consumer focused. It would be really useful to have a list of the restaurants along Lawrence East or Kennedy that are doing takeout and delivery. Could you please provide us with a list by Wexford and Kennedy BIA?

Response: The Digital Main Street helps businesses develop and expand their businesses online, and leveraging the expertise of the business and technology sector. Digital tools are becoming vital, if not existential, assets for many 'main street' businesses trying to weather the current crisis. The expansion of the City's Digital Main Street program, in full cooperation with our partners in the provincial and federal governments, business community and non-profit sector, extends the availability of these tools to help businesses weather the crisis and take early advantage of opportunities for economic recovery in whatever form they appear."

Kennedy BIA- List of Local Restaurants Open in Scarborough (Take out or Delivery)

Restaurant	Address	Phone #
BURRITO BOYZ	1961 KENNEDY ROAD	416-609-2699
DOMINOS PIZZA	1890 KENNEDY ROAD	416-335-7373
GIBBOS WEST INDIAN TAKE-OUT	1872 KENNEDY RD, SCARB., ON	416-293-4619
HABIBIZ RESTAURANT AND CAFÉ	1939 KENNEDY ROAD	647-868-5658
HARRY'S DRIVE-IN	2280 LAWRENCE AVENUE EAST	416-759-5980
HARVEY'S	2310 LAWRENCE AVENUE EAST	416-757-7000
JOHNNY'S SHAWARMA	1904 KENNEDY ROAD	416-298-7917
KAIRALI TASTE OF KERALA	1210 KENNEDY ROAD	416-909-0994
KARACHI KITCHEN	2300 LAWRENCE AVENUE EAST	416-341-3677
KARAIKUDI CHETTINAD RESTAURANT	1225 KENNEDY ROAD	416-701-0003
KFC & TACO BELL	1338 KENNEDY ROAD	416-755-6028
KIM KIM	1186 KENNEDY ROAD	416-757-8300
LAZEEZ SHAWARMA	1225 KENNEDY ROAD	416-750-0788
MR. GREEK TAKE-OUT & DELIVERY	1957 Kennedy ROAD	416-335-4123
NANDOS	15 WILLIAM KITCHEN ROAD	647-943-9270
NUN SUCH JERK INC.	1180A KENNEDY ROAD	416-752-6993
PHO VIETNAM	1280 KENNEDY ROAD	416-755-0909
PHO NAM DINH	1885 KENNEDY ROAD	
PIZZA CITY	880 ELLESMERE, UNIT 10	416-412-0011
PIZZA NOVA	2272 LAWRENCE AVE EAST	(416) 751-1200
THE FANZONE WINGS & RIBS	1168 KENNEDY RD	416-551-0415
WENDY'S	1460 KENNEDY ROAD	(416) 752-8195
WILD WING	11 WILLIAM KITCHEN ROAD	416-754-9464
CHURCH'S CHICKEN	2290 LAWRENCE AVE EAST	416-752-5550
KATHY'S GRILL	1158 KENNEDY ROAD	(647) 341-5555
MILANOS GRILL	1891 KENNEDY ROAD	(647) 340-2777
NOVA RESTORANTE	2272 LAWRENCE AVE EAST	416-751-1200
SHAWARMA 360	1 WILLIAM KITCHEN RD, 4A	647- 347-9360

Wexford BIA -List of Local Restaurants Open in Scarborough (Take out or Delivery)

Company	Category	Address	Tel#
Crème et Miel	Bakery	2075 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-901-8040
Crown Pastries	Bakery	2086 Lawrence Ave. E.	647-351-2015
FV Foods Filipino Bakery	Bakery	2085 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-751-7555
Kunafa's	Bakery	1801 Lawrence Ave. E.#2	416-887-4561
Lebanese Bakery	Bakery	2094 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-441-2450
Trinacria Italian Bakery	Bakery	1877 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-285-6118
Better Than Yia Yia's Foods	Catering Services	1841 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-285-7888

One Life Meals	Catering Services	1960 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-275-9704
Al-Amir Meat Market & Grocery	Grocery	1829 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-729-7229
Al Mumtaz SuperMarket	Grocery	10 Tower Drive	416-285-5071
Alzahraa Halal Meat & Grocery	Grocery	2032 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-701-1590
Alwalaa Halal Meat	Grocery	1728 Lawrence Ave.E.	416-285-0778
Arz Fine Foods	Grocery	1909 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-755-5084
Cosmos Agora	Grocery	2004 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-285-4443
Diana's Seafood Delight	Grocery	2101 Lawrence Ave E.	416-288-9286
Food Basics	Grocery	2131 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-759-7625
Indian Groceries & Spices	Grocery	1983 Lawrence Ave.E.	416-752-7157
Samara Roasted Nuts	Grocery	1865 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-701-1718
Uncle Seth African Carribean Foods	Grocery	2069 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-288-9330
Aleppo Kebab	Restaurant	1960 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-701-9191
Amazing Hakka	Restaurant	1734 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-759-1147
Bab Tuma Restaurant	Restaurant	2038 Lawrence Ave. E.	1-877-222-8862
Broaster Chicken	Restaurant	1758 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-834-6270
Café de Paan	Restaurant	2016 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-750-0047
Chicken Kitchen	Restaurant	2086A Lawrence Ave. E	416-752-8155
Coffee In	Restaurant	2181A Lawrence Ave. E.	416-821-2309
Damas Grill House & Juice Bar	Restaurant	1795 Lawrence Ave. E.	647-346-6424
Diana's Oyster Bar & Grill	Restaurant	2105 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-288-1588
Faryab Restaurant	Restaurant	1801 Lawrence Ave. E. #1	416-901-6631
Ghadir Fish Restaurant	Restaurant	1846 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-750-7404
Ghadir Meat & Restaurant	Restaurant	1848 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-750-7404
Ghost Kitchens	Restaurant	1993 Lawrence Ave. E.	647-348-3400
Hadhramaut Restaurat	Restaurant	1748 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-551-5755
Ibrahim B.B.Q. Shawarma	Restaurant	1967 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-651-1010
Islanderz Caribbean Grill	Restaurant	2131 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-759-2328
Johhny Custard's	Restaurant	1961 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-551-7754
Karahi Boys	Restaurant	1921 Lawrence Ave.E.	416-901-8727
Little Caesars Pizza	Restaurant	2065 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-750-4795
M & Co. Burgers	Restaurant	2088 Lawrence Ave. E.	647-352-2088
Makkal Chon	Restaurant	1979 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-757-3945
Mini Moe's Burgers	Restaurant	1961 Lawrence Ave. E.	647-351-6637
Naan & Kabob	Restaurant	1801 Lawrence Ave. E, Unit #12.	416-285-8191
Nasib's Shawarma	Restaurant	1867 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-285-7223
Negril's Jerk Hut	Restaurant	1730 Lawrence Ave. E.	647-352-5375
Papa John's Pizza	Restaurant	2014 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-755-7575
Pariwar Restaurant	Restaurant	1732 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-757-6635
Patna Kabab House	Restaurant	1885 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-759-4920
Pho Metro	Restaurant	2057 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-750-8898
Pili Pili Catering & Take-Out	Restaurant	1960 Lawrence Ave. E.	647-748-7454
241 Pizza	Restaurant	1751 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-701-9383
Pizza Pizza	Restaurant	1950 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-757-7141

PizzaLand Halal	Restaurant	1801 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-750-8111
Roadhouse Wings	Restaurant	2181 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-295-5539
Rose`s Halal Kitchen	Restaurant	1960 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-731-4142
Sahan Restaurant	Restaurant	2010-2012 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-759-7242
Scarborough Pizza Kabob	Restaurant	2157 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-757-8888
Shawarma Empire	Restaurant	1823 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-751-8463
Spice Is Rite	Restaurant	2179 Lawrence Ave. E.	647-430-7732
Subway Sub	Restaurant	2084 Lawrence Ave. E.	647-345-1205
Sumaq Iraqi	Restaurant	1961 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-901-4404
Super Hakka Restaurant	Restaurant	1801 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-755-0855
Swiss Chalet	Restaurant	2130 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-759-5635
Tim Hortons	Restaurant	2044 Lawrence Ave.E.	416-759-0999
Tim Hortons	Restaurant	1108 Pharmacy Ave.	416-750-8991
Top Gun Burger	Restaurant	1960 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-792-9440
Wong's Asian Cuisine	Restaurant	2173 Lawrence Ave. E.	416-285-0289
Yummi`s	Restaurant	2020 Lawrence Ave. E.	647-349-2222

Question: How is the Scarborough Health Network coping with the crisis? Are there going to be changes to employment regulations in the future to prevent the spread between long term care homes. Preventing staff from working in more than one at a time?

Response: The Scarborough Hospital Network has seen improvements in the ICU numbers recorded as of April 23, 2020, they are as follows: Centenary Hospital 100%, from 124%, Birchmount 67% from 84%, General hospital 76% from 83%. Visit the Scarborough Health Network's website at www.shn.ca for further updates.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health issued an updated directive (#3) for long-term care homes to immediately implement that all staff and essential visitors wear surgical/procedure masks at all times for the duration of full shifts or visits in the long-term care home as well as to ask long-term care homes to save and securely store used PPE, including masks. The directive includes rigorous direction for staff and resident cohorting, the limitation of staff workplaces, COVID-19 testing and the latest protocol for outbreak management, among other critical guidance.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health issued an updated directive (#3) for long-term care homes to immediately begin more aggressive screening – upgraded to twice daily – of staff, essential visitors and residents.

Premier Doug Ford called for the Canadian Forces to help in response to the spread of COVID-19 within long-term care homes. The military will be dispatched to five long-term care homes dealing with significant outbreaks and will provide assistance with the day-to-day operations, coordination, medical care and general support.

Question: What measures are in place to protect seniors at Grocery Stores?

Response: Toronto Public Health has created a guide for food stores that encourages them to consider designating the first hour of operation for customers from vulnerable populations (e.g. seniors, people with underlying medical conditions.) They also recommend that food stores design a shopping flow that would best maintain physical distancing. Each food store decides for itself whether to designate hours for vulnerable populations and how they will direct shopping flow.

Question: How long are City Permits cancelled?

Response: All major city events and event permits are cancelled until June 30 as the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise.

Question: How can I report non-compliance issues?

Response: The City of Toronto has launched an online form where the public can share their concerns about large gatherings, use of public amenities, businesses in non-compliance and price gouging. For further information please visit: [Toronto.ca/covid19](https://toronto.ca/covid19). Residents also have the option of calling 311, if they prefer to make a report phone, but 311 is highly encouraging anyone who is able to, to use the online tool.

Question: Are we required to re-apply for CERB?

Response: Eligibility periods for Canada Emergency Response Benefit are fixed in 4-week periods. If your situation continues, you can re-apply for CERB for multiple 4-week periods, to a maximum of 16 weeks (4 periods).

If you start working again after you get a CERB payment, and then stop working, you need to re-apply for the CERB. When you re-apply, you must confirm that for at least 14 days in a row, during the period you are applying for, you won't receive:

- employment income
- self-employment income
- provincial or federal benefits related to maternity or paternity leave

Question: Is there anything that you wish people in the community would be doing during COVID-19 to support and extend the work of your office and the City?

Response: I encourage everyone to practise social and physical distancing, stay at home, wash hands frequently, as we work together to flatten the curve.

The City offers programs where residents can volunteer and/or donate towards COVID-19 recovery. Here is list of opportunities:

- **City of Toronto Donations and Volunteering**

Visit: <https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-how-you-can-help/covid-19-donateto/> or E-mail : donate@toronto.ca

- **Toronto's Volunteer Response Team**

<https://info.volunteertoronto.ca/covid19>

Call Volunteer Toronto at 416-961-6888 or email info@volunteertoronto.ca

- **Spark Ontario**

Visit to find other volunteer opportunities: <http://www.SparkOntario.ca>

- **Government of Canada National COVID-19 Volunteer Recruitment Campaign**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-service-commission/national-covid-19-recruitment-campaign-we-need-you.html>

Question: Could you please provide a list of drop-off locations for food donation?

Response: Here are some food drop-off locations in Scarborough:

- **Dorset Park Hub Food Bank (run by Agincourt Community Services)**

Donations can be made at the HUB from Tuesday to Friday between 10am-2pm. For large donations, deliveries can be made to the back loading area of the building located at 1911 Kennedy Road. For more information please call 416-292-6912 or email info@dorsetpark.com

- **Kennedy/Eglinton Library Pop-Up Library**

As Daily Bread is providing the majority of food supplies to this location, please drop-off donations to any Toronto Fire Hall 24/7.

- **Station 245** located at 1600 Birchmount Road and **Station 232** located 1550 Midland Road.

Click here for a link to city-wide locations: <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/public-safety-alerts/understanding-emergency-services/fire-station-locations/>

Additionally, DonateTO has a number of other ways to donate specifically to the COVID-19 response. Please visit this link: <https://www.toronto.ca/business-economy/partnerships-sponsorships-donations/donate/>

Next Virtual Town Hall- April 30, 2020

The Virtual Town Halls will be held this and every Thursday from 7:00 pm- 8:00 pm (until further notice), to discuss how we can stay safe and play our part in keeping each other healthy and our strong. This is also an opportunity for you to voice your concerns, provide feedback and share your ideas.

To join the meeting, register on Eventbrite @deputymayorvirtualtownhall and you will receive the WebEx link and meeting ID. If you do not receive the link by Wednesday evening at 5:00pm of each week, please contact my office at 416-397-9274 or by email at councillor_thompson@toronto.ca.