

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Call to Action: A New Dawn for Toronto's Restaurant Industry

Toronto, ON – May 31, 2023

In the heart of Toronto, amidst the bustling streets and towering buildings, the restaurant industry pulsates with life. It is the very essence of our city's unique character, nourishing both our bodies and our souls. But the challenges that choke the very people who work tirelessly to feed us and put food on the tables of their families cannot be ignored any longer.

Throughout the pandemic, the restaurant industry faced unimaginable adversity. Yet, despite the odds, it persevered, displaying unwavering determination and innovation. From transforming their operations to offer take-out and delivery services to creating outdoor dining experiences, Toronto's restaurateurs went above and beyond to continue serving the community. They did so without the necessary guidance and support from Mayor John Tory and Chief Health Officer Dr. Eileen De Villa.

However, the industry faced constant empty promises, a rollercoaster of opening and closing, and a lack of certainty that created havoc. The struggles to book staff, build outdoor seating only to have it closed shortly thereafter, and the resulting inventory waste added to the complete uncertainty that they faced. The industry was failed, but we understand their plight.

Today, we stand at a pivotal moment. The priorities of our city have veered astray, with a misplaced focus on bike lanes and streetcars, while our once-thriving restaurant industry struggles to breathe. This is unacceptable. We cannot burden the very people who try so desperately to feed us while providing for their families. It's time to loosen the suffocating grip and take bold, decisive action.

Giorgio Mammoliti, the candidate with a proven track record of fighting for the rights of the industry and taxpayers, offers a clear alternative. He stands firmly against the empty promises and neglect that have plagued our restaurant industry for far too long. Mammoliti's unwavering commitment to what is right and fair will restore balance and prosperity to Toronto's culinary landscape.

Together, we will embark on a transformative journey, addressing the challenges head-on:

Traffic Congestion: We will implement a common-sense urban planning approach that prioritizes accessibility to our restaurants. No longer will our industry suffer at the hands of gridlock. We will create a city where patrons, employees, and supplies flow freely, ensuring the vibrant heartbeat of our restaurants remains strong. This includes considering the location of the science center and avoiding downtown congestion that would further strain our already burdened streets. We will set up an approval committee focused on coordinating and approving all road constructions, prioritizing pedestrian access and locating new developments with accessibility in mind. Additionally, we will

explore innovative transportation solutions such as gondolas from downtown to Ontario Place, offering drop-off services away from congested areas with ample parking.

Giorgio Mammoliti is leading the charge to revive the Danforth. Our mission: remove the bike lanes that hinder accessibility and bring back the vibrant culinary scene that made the Danforth famous. Together, we will restore its former glory, including the iconic Taste of the Danforth festival, and create a thriving food destination once again.

King Street Corridor: We refuse to let this iconic district languish in the shadows. Under Mammoliti's leadership, we will breathe new life into the King Street Corridor, restoring it to its former glory. The days of misguided policies choking our culinary experiences are numbered. We will revitalize King Street, attracting visitors and locals alike, with vibrant dining establishments and cultural events that showcase the rich heritage of our city.

Construction Disruptions: Collaboration will be the cornerstone of our approach. We will engage in meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders, minimizing disruptions caused by uncoordinated construction projects. Our local businesses deserve better, and under Mammoliti's administration, they will no longer bear the brunt of negligence. We will establish financial support mechanisms to assist businesses during construction, ensuring that they not only survive but thrive in the aftermath.

CafeTO: We recognize the invaluable role CafeTO played during the pandemic, and under Mammoliti's leadership, we will provide even greater support. He will champion the complete elimination of fees for restaurants participating in CafeTO for the next few years, relieving them of financial burdens and allowing them to invest in their businesses. Additionally, he will streamline the process by cutting red tape, making it easier and faster for restaurants to participate and expand their outdoor dining spaces. Together, we will ensure that CafeTO remains a thriving program that contributes to the vibrancy of our restaurant industry and our city.

Property Tax Relief: The days of empty promises stop here. Mammoliti will enforce the proper allocation of benefits, ensuring that small business owners receive the support they need and deserve. We will level the playing field and give our culinary entrepreneurs a fair advantage in the pursuit of their dreams. We will address the misappropriation of commercial property tax reductions, including the exclusion of small businesses located in large properties. By implementing a rule that ensures the tax reduction benefits the tenant of the business, we will correct this imbalance and provide meaningful relief.

MAT for Tourism: We pledge to channel 100% of the Municipal Accommodations Tax (MAT) back into stimulating our city's tourism sector. Recognizing the integral role our restaurants play in attracting visitors and fostering job growth, we will create a symbiotic relationship that fuels the success of our industry. By directing the MAT towards tourism development, marketing, and infrastructure, we will stimulate job growth, enhance the visitor experience, and boost the overall economy.

Furthermore, we must address the negative impacts of drug injection sites and the homelessness issue that have plagued our city. The current politicians have stood by and watched as these problems grew, neglecting the impact they have on our tourism industry and our restaurant businesses. Tourists, who once flocked to our city, are now hesitant to visit due to safety concerns and the deteriorating environment. This must change. Under Mammoliti's leadership, we will implement comprehensive strategies to address these challenges head-on, working collaboratively with all stakeholders to create safe and welcoming spaces that attract visitors and restore confidence in our city.

The time for timid leadership and empty rhetoric is over. Giorgio Mammoliti stands resolute, ready to lead Toronto's restaurant industry into a new era, where congestion is relieved, the needs of our culinary scene are prioritized, and the industry thrives once again. We understand the struggles, the frustrations, and the uncertainties faced by the industry, and we will fight tirelessly for their rights and their future.

Together, let's usher in a new dawn for Toronto's restaurant industry. Vote for Change. Vote for Progress. Vote for Giorgio.

Giorgio Mammoliti

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