
DR. DISC (HAMILTON) Inc.

20 Wilson St
Hamilton ON L8R1C5

May 20, 2025

TO: Legislative Coordinator, GIC
City of Hamilton, 71 Main Street West,
1st Floor, Hamilton, Ontario, L8P 4Y5
clerk@hamilton.ca

RE: PED25142 - Grant for Centenary Methodist Church to Establish A Mid-Sized Performance Centre, 24 Main Street West, Hamilton (Ward 2)

My name is Mark Furukawa and I am the owner/operator of Dr. Disc, Hamilton's longest-running music retail store which opened in 1991. The most crucial factor behind our longevity and success is the Hamilton music scene itself which includes many of our own world-class artists and music creators, and an essential part of sustaining, nurturing and growing it for generations to come is establishing and maintaining venues where music can be performed live to an appreciative audience.

From 2019-2020 I was the Chairperson for the city-affiliated Hamilton Music Advisory Team (HMAT) which consisted of a select group of Hamilton professionals who together formulated and advocated for initiatives that would promote and support music in the city, the most important of which that we all unanimously advocated for was for live music venues.

This letter, therefore, is in full support for the funding request for New Vision United Church and The Music Hall since the main weakness in the live music scene is the lack of a mid-sized venue which would cater to an audience of approximately 1,000 people. There are some excellent smaller-sized venues which are breeding grounds for local bands who are just getting started or for bands who may be touring that have limited exposure, but the lack of a mid-sized venue for more established artists that already have a following is a real detriment as this causes such bands to bypass playing in Hamilton entirely. There is a huge gap between the smaller venues and FirstOntario Centre which is currently under renovation.

The Music Hall is the ideal solution to this dilemma: it is centrally located; aesthetically beautiful; would also be utilized as a multi-function space and community hub; and with the depth of music industry skills and booking talent of the Sonic Unyon/Supercrawl organization I have no doubt that it would prove a great success were it to get the needed funding to complete the full retro-fitting which has already seen the installation of professional sound system. And for these reasons, and more, I am voicing my support for the maximum funding possible for this extremely worthwhile project.

Sincerely,



Mark Furukawa
Owner/Operator
Dr. Disc (Hamilton) Inc.