

Councillor Adam Vaughan

Toronto City Council
Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20

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March 30, 2007

Councillor Howard Moscoe, Chair
Licensing and Standards Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor Moscoe,

I am writing today to ask that the Licensing and Standards Committee request two reports from city staff with respect to licensed entertainment facilities, including planning mechanisms that can be used to allow for long-term moratoriums and appropriate density thresholds for number of facilities in any one area.

An interim control by-law has been in effect in the Entertainment District to address the community health and safety issues that result from the high concentration of licensed entertainment facilities in this area. The interim control by-law expires in May 2007, however the community health and safety issues still remain.

The issues of concern include:

- influx of large numbers of bar patrons (35-40,000) on any given night of the weekend
- people exiting bars en-masse at bar closing
- drunk driving
- police report seeing more weapons in clubs
- community complaints (noise, disturbances, etc)
- incidents of violence - inside and outside of clubs
- high enforcement costs (City and Province)
- Liquor Licence Act violations (selling to intoxicated persons , serving to minors, selling illegal liquor, overcrowding, etc)

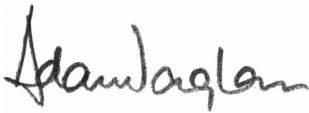
Given that in December 2005, City Council adopted recommendations as part of the Toronto Drug Strategy directly related to density of licensed establishments. Recommendation 22 calls on the City of Toronto to work with the provincial government to limit the number of licensed establishments within any given area of the city to reduce the harms of alcohol for individuals and neighbourhoods.

As such, I would appreciate if the Licensing and Standards Committee could consider the following requests:

1. That the Chief Planner be requested to work with Municipal Licensing & Standards, the Toronto Drug Strategy Secretariat and the Toronto Police Service to develop and report back to the June 8, 2007 meeting of the Licensing & Standards Committee on planning mechanisms that can be used to allow for long-term moratoriums on the establishment of licensed entertainment facilities in areas of Toronto with high concentrations of these types of businesses, specifically, the Entertainment District.
2. That the Chief Planner be requested to work with Municipal Licensing & Standards, the Toronto Drug Strategy Secretariat and the Toronto Police Service to establish and report back to the June 8, 2007 meeting of the Licensing & Standards Committee guidelines for appropriate density thresholds of licensed establishments within any given area of the city.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam Vaughan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Adam Vaughan, City Councillor
Ward 20 – Trinity Spadina