

NOTICE OF MOTION**Coordinated Enforcement of Problem Properties****Moved by:** Councillor Kyle Rae**Seconded by:** Councillor *Parks*



SUMMARY:

At its meeting of March 28, 2007, the Toronto Drug Strategy Implementation Panel approved two motions brought forward by one of its subcommittees, the Neighbourhood Strategies Working Group. The Neighbourhood Strategies Working Group is developing locally-based strategies to reduce the harms of alcohol and other drug related activity and crime for individuals and neighbourhoods. The motions seek to improve coordination between agencies involved in property regulation and licensing enforcement through the development of a centralized database, and the establishment of Problem Property Teams.

Central Database

A central database would enable consistent information to be shared and facilitate coordinated, systemic responses between all relevant enforcement agencies. Often authorities are not aware that other enforcement agencies have recorded infractions or laid fines on a particular property. For example, a bar may have Fire Code violations and Public Health infractions in addition to Liquor Licence offences. Properties with repeat and multiple violations may have a negative impact on their local neighbourhood. Shared information would allow for improved identification of “problem properties” and direct the level and type of enforcement response needed in each case. A model database system does exist for this type of information sharing and coordination. The Toronto Police Service uses such a system to share information about marijuana grow operations with Municipal Licensing and Standards, Toronto Public Health and other enforcement bodies.

Problem Property Teams

Problem Property Teams address property regulation and licensing issues in a comprehensive and coordinated way. Team members include Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS), Toronto Public Health, Toronto Fire Services, the Toronto Police Service, and the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO). The City of Toronto did have Problem Property Teams at one time, one for each of the four quadrants of the city. The Teams were led through MLS and funded by the provincial government. However, the teams were disbanded when the Province withdrew funding. There are some ‘ad hoc’ committees set up by City Councillors to deal with problem properties in their wards. However, given that these issues are city-wide, re-establishing centralized Problem Property Teams would be a more strategic and responsive use of resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the City of Toronto, Municipal Licensing and Standards Division, work with the Province to develop a centralized database of information about complaints, bylaw and legislation violations, convictions, etc., to be shared between provincial (Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario) and municipal (Municipal Licensing and Standards, Toronto Police Service, Toronto Public Health, Toronto Fire Services) enforcement agencies. A central database would allow for better monitoring of problem properties and facilitate co-ordinated, systemic responses between relevant enforcement agencies,
2. That the City of Toronto establish and appropriately resource Problem Property Teams to better monitor and coordinate efforts between enforcement agencies, and that consideration be given to include community representatives to allow for broader input.

May 4, 2007