
Councillor Adam Vaughan

Toronto City Council
Trinity-Spadina, Ward 20

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April 18, 2007

Councillor Glenn De Baeremaeker, Chair
Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor De Baeremaeker,

I am writing today to ask that the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee request a report and implementation plan from city staff with respect to the use of public sidewalks by licensed entertainment facilities.

Currently, entertainment and cultural facilities regularly use the public sidewalk for people seeking entry and re-entry into the establishment. These line-ups occupy the public boulevard without a permit. Chapter 313 of the former City of Toronto Municipal Code did have some regulations related to theatre queues. The new Streets By-law should implement a permitting regime for the use of the public sidewalk for queuing similar to that applicable to boulevard cafes.

This request is part of an overall strategy to address the community health and safety issues that result from the high concentration of licensed entertainment facilities in the Entertainment District.

The issues of concern include:

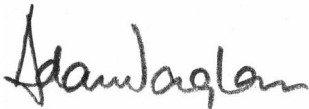
- influx of large numbers of bar patrons (35-40,000) on any given night of the weekend
- people exiting bars en-masse at bar closing
- drunk driving
- police report seeing more weapons in clubs
- community complaints (noise, disturbances, etc)
- incidents of violence - inside and outside of clubs
- high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

As such, I would appreciate if the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee could consider the following requests:

1. The General Manager, Transportation Services, in consultation with the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, report to the Committee, as part of the Streets By-law review, on amendments to implement a permitting scheme for entertainment and cultural facilities that regularly use the public sidewalk for queuing.
2. The permitting regime include regulations for the formation of the queue outside of the establishment prior to entry, including the location of such line-ups; the maximum number of people permitted to be in such line-ups; the procedures used by the establishment to monitor the line-ups and to control the number of people in the line-ups; the installation of appropriate barriers; the requirement for pay duty police to ensure orderly conduct by the people in the line-ups; and a process for polling neighbouring properties prior to permit issuance.
3. The fee for the permit be based upon a full cost recovery model for the administration and enforcement of the by-law, as well as rent for the use of a public sidewalk in the same way that patio licenses, fruit stands, boulevard parking applications and vending licenses currently pay rent for their use of sidewalks.
4. The report include amendments to Article XLI, Entertainment Establishment/ Nightclub, of Chapter 545, Licensing, to require that such a permit be a requirement of the crowd control plan to be filed.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Vaughan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'A'.

Adam Vaughan, City Councillor
Ward 20 – Trinity Spadina