

Pedestrian Clearway Project – Curb side Permits in the College Street Revitalization Project

Date:	August 22, 2007
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Bruce Robertson, Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards
Wards:	Ward 20, Trinity Spadina
Reference Number:	

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter for which the Toronto and East York Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

To report on how to require mandatory participation for all restaurants with cafés and other business with merchandise displays in the “College Street Revitalization Project – Pedestrian Clearway Pilot”, adopted by City Council at its meeting on June 27, 28, and 29, 2006.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Municipal Licensing and Standards Division recommends that:

1. The Municipal Licensing and Standards Division undertake consultations with the City Solicitor, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) and the relevant business and community stakeholders regarding the implementation of mandatory requirements for curb side permits for cafes and marketing displays.
2. The Municipal Licensing and Standards Division, report on the outcome of the consultations to the November 27, 2007 meeting of Toronto and East York Community Council.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications arising from adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council at its meeting of June 27, 28 and 29, 2006, approved the 'College Street Revitalization Project – Pedestrian Clearway Pilot', supporting the voluntary relocation of existing permit areas to curb side on College Street between Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street, to create a minimum standard of a 2.1 metre pedestrian clearway on the sidewalk next to the store front.

At its meeting of June 26, 2007, Toronto and East York Community Council adopted motion TE7.100 requesting staff to report back on the process required to make participation in the pilot project mandatory for all operators of existing permit areas within the pilot area.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The 'College Street Revitalization Project – Pedestrian Clearway Pilot', adopted by City Council approved a pilot project that supports the voluntary relocation of existing permit areas to the curb side on College Street between Spadina Avenue and Bathurst Street.

On January 9, 2007, the Municipal Licensing and Standards Division (ML&S) forwarded letters to all the existing permit holders in the pilot project area informing them of their eligibility to participate in the pilot project. This correspondence requested that the permit holders respond to ML&S regarding their intentions with regard to the pilot project. Responses regarding their willingness to participate in the pilot project were required from all of the permit holders.

On March 20, 2007, ML&S forwarded further correspondence to the existing permit holders in the pilot project area who had not responded to the initial letters. As a result responses were received from all the permit holders with the majority indicating that they were willing to participate in the pilot project.

On May 9, 2007, ML&S forwarded letters to all the permit holders who indicated they would participate in the pilot project requesting them to make an appointment to attend the offices of ML&S Licensing Services to sign new permit agreements and pay any additional permit fees. To date none of the existing permit holders, who indicated they would participate in the pilot project, attended the offices of ML&S Licensing Services to complete the process.

COMMENTS

Prior to the end of May 2007, ML&S staff attended the business premises of all of the existing permit holders to determine why they had not made appointments to attend at the offices of ML&S Licensing Services to complete the process regarding their involvement in the pilot project.

At this time the business operators who held existing permits indicated that they were no longer interested in participating in the pilot project. This was largely due to the added expense of relocating their street furnishings and the fact that the liquor licensing regulations would require them to locate an additional bar within the confines of the café area in order to serve alcohol to patrons seated in the café area. It was also indicated that the business operator's clientele expressed negative opinions regarding the relocation of the café areas to the curb side.

As a result of the lack of participation by the existing permit holders ML&S were unable to report on the benefits or drawbacks to the business owners and community resulting from the relocation of the existing permit areas as required by the proposed pilot project.

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SIGNATURE

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