
City Council

Motion without Notice

MM47.16	ACTION			Ward: 14
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Endorsement of the Application made to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario by the Toronto Nationals for a special permit liquor licence at the Lamport Stadium venue, during their home games - by Councillor Grimes, seconded by Councillor Perks

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair. Council has added this Motion to the agenda for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Grimes, seconded by Councillor Perks, recommends that:

1. City Council endorse the sale of alcohol at Lamport Stadium for the Toronto Nationals six home games and that the City of Toronto policies will apply for serving liquor in City of Toronto Facilities.
2. That the serving of liquor will be in the end zones, including suites and fan zone thus restricting the serving to concrete areas, with no liquor to be served or consumed on the artificial turf area, and barriers to be erected between the licenced areas and the field.
3. City Council, for liquor licensing purposes, advise the Alcohol Gaming Commission of Ontario that it has no objection to the issuance of a special permit for liquor licences for the Toronto Nationals six home games to be held at Lamport Stadium.
4. City Council request staff to undertake an evaluation prior to the 2011 season.

Summary

The Toronto Nationals are Canada's first ever professional field lacrosse team. They began playing in 2009 in the MLL (Major League Lacrosse) and concluded their inaugural season by winning the Steinfeld Cup. They are named the Toronto Nationals because of cultural connection to Aboriginals; representing two nations playing as one team.

The Toronto Nationals have hosted their home games in the past at the BMO Field, and now are playing at the newly renovated Lamport Stadium, contributing to the economy of the local community. The Nationals have played at the licenced BMO field in the past without incident or complaint regarding fan behaviour.

The Toronto Nationals wish to compete on an equal footing with other professional sports teams in Toronto, as well as other Special Events in the City, such as Caribana. They are seeking a permit from the Alcohol and Gaming Commission to serve alcohol during their games at Lamport Stadium, where there is a precedent for this with the Caribana Festival.

The Toronto Nationals would meet all standards for serving alcohol in City facilities including Smart Serve licensed staff, paid duty police officers present and any additional requirements.

The Nationals will host six games during their season at Lamport Stadium between May to September. The League is a North American league, so the games will attract both local enthusiasts and tourists from outside Canada.

Recognizing the significant public and community contributions made to Canada's sports culture made by professional sports teams in Toronto, attracting tourism, investing in our recreational facilities, supporting youth sports programs etc., it is to the City's benefit to ensure that members of our community and visitors to the City of Toronto can expect the same level of amenities as exist in all professional sports stadiums.

This matter is deemed urgent as the first scheduled game will be May 22, 2010.

(Submitted to City Council on March 31 and April 1, 2010 as MM47.16)