



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Refusal of a boulevard café permit located on the commercial frontage of 782B St Clair Avenue West

Date:	June 1, 2010
To:	Toronto and East York Community Council
From:	Richard Mucha, Manager, Licensing Services, Municipal Licensing & Standards
Wards:	Ward 21 – St Paul's

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 the refusal to issue a permit by the Municipal Licensing and Standards based on the application for a boulevard café permit on the commercial frontage of 782B St. Clair Avenue West.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Municipal Licensing and Standards recommends that the Toronto and East York Community Council:

1. Deny the application for the proposed boulevard café on the commercial frontage of 782B St Clair Avenue West.

Financial Impact

There are no financial implications resulting from the adoption of this report.

DECISION HISTORY

An application for a boulevard café on the commercial frontage of 782B St Clair Avenue West was received on April, 2010, from the business owner representing Dimitra's Bistro Inc operating as Dimitra's Bistro. The application submitted was seeking permission to establish a boulevard café for 6.85 square meters, which would accommodate approximately 5 patrons. (**Appendix No. 1**)

In order to maintain the required 2.13 metre pedestrian clearway outlined in former City of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 313 and the Vibrant Streets Document, right of way permits for the occupation of the sidewalk and or boulevard are reviewed when streetscape reconstruction, utility installations or a change of business ownership occurs to ensure that the permits continue to conform to the current regulations.

The proposed boulevard café does not meet the criteria set out in Chapter 313 of the former City of Toronto Municipal Code. One of the provisions of the Code is that boulevard cafes shall provide 2.13 meters clearance from the curb and/or any street furnishings (i.e. tree planters, poles, and benches...) in order to maintain adequate pedestrian space.

The existing sidewalk fronting 782B St Clair Avenue West is 3.64 in width. There is a light standard located in front of the establishment which further reduces the available sidewalk space to 1.15 metres to sustain pedestrian traffic. The addition of a café operation at this location will create a meandering pattern for pedestrian traffic in this area and make passage difficult for those with assisted mobility needs.

On May 20, 2010, a refusal letter was sent to the business owner representing Dimitra's Bistro Inc operating as Dimitra's Bistro advising the applicant that the boulevard café application was denied due to insufficient space. (**Appendix No. 2**)

The relocation and or installation of features, such as utility poles and tree pits, within the right of way have caused the reduction or elimination of the 2.13 metre pedestrian clearway, required to comply with former City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 313 and the Vibrant Streets Document, at many of the locations where permits may be applied for.

A review of the proposed location has determined taking into consideration the clearance requirement described above, that there is insufficient space to operate a boulevard café due to street furnishing on the boulevard.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

A letter dated May 31, 2010 was received by Municipal Licensing & Standards from the business owner representing Dimitra's Bistro Inc operating as Dimitra's Bistro to appeal the decision of the denial for a boulevard cafe. (**Appendix No.3**)

Council has approved the Vibrant Streets Document in order to create streetscapes where pedestrian traffic moves freely and unencumbered and to ensure that the placement of street furnishings, cafes and marketing areas and other features is better aligned to support pedestrian traffic.

COMMENTS

In accordance with the provisions of the former City of Toronto, Municipal Code, Chapter 313, the 2.13 metre clearance is required in order to provide a clear pathway for pedestrian's traffic.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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APPENDICES

1. Sketch of boulevard café
2. Refusal letter to business owner
3. Letter of Appeal regarding the denial
4. Photos of proposed café area