



July 10, 2012
VIA EMAIL

Members of Toronto City Council
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen St. West
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillor,

I am writing to you today to seek your support in accepting the report of the Licensing and Standards Committee (of the June 28th 2012 meeting) relating to Street Food Vending. The report as currently written recommends a continuation of the ongoing review of street food vending in Toronto. Such a review is necessary in order to consider all aspects of the regulatory framework that are required to adequately regulate this industry without compromising the level playing field for existing brick and mortar food service establishments. To amend the recommendations at this point in time would be injudicious and we respectfully request your support of this report in order that staff can continue their work on the matter.

The Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association is Canada's largest provincial hospitality industry association representing more than 11,000 establishments throughout Ontario. The ORHMA – Toronto Region Board (ORHMA – TRB) is comprised of a cross-section of owners and operators representing Toronto's 7500 restaurateurs. Toronto restaurants employ over 72,000 people and generate \$5.8 billion in revenue annually and the City collects over \$40 million in property taxes from Toronto's restaurants. Foodservice establishments contribute significantly to the social, cultural and economic vibrancy of Toronto.

ORHMA-TRB recently attended a meeting with Bruce Robertson, Tracey Cook, and Lan Vo of the City's Municipal Licensing and Standards department. We were invited to provide feedback on the food truck movement. We attended with several of our Toronto Region Directors and are very appreciative of the opportunity to speak to these individuals on their initiatives to review the current policies pertaining to food trucks and mobile vending within Toronto.

The ORHMA also presented to the Licensing and Standards Committee on June 28th in support of the staff recommendation to proceed with a review of the mobile food vending industry prior to making any further changes to the licensing or zoning components that may or may not govern the operation of food trucks in the city of Toronto.

On the topic of food trucks, we were very clear that we do not support a simple amendment to existing by-laws to allow trucks to operate in private parking lots. We provided staff with some written considerations that we believe they need to take into account before drafting a report to committee. We also expressed concerns about the consideration of lifting the current moratorium on permits to allow food trucks increased access to the downtown core.



The Toronto Region Board of ORHMA has provided staff with a list of considerations we believe are required in order to recommend a comprehensive and fair by-law that speaks to a level playing field for all food service providers – mobile or not. Before any new by-laws or loosening of the current regulations and moratorium, consideration needs to be given to the many aspects of regulation which are being overlooked in these approaches and which would create an unlevel playing field.

Any new regulation must set both restrictions and parameters, establish a review mechanism, and offer an evaluation at the end of a set period. The drafting of the regulation needs to include an element of collaboration with representatives from the food truck industry, the restaurant industry, Tourism officials, local BIAs, and relevant City Staff (Public Health, Economic Development, Licensing, etc).

Please feel free to contact me at any point in time for further clarification or discussion of the restaurant industry's position on the topic of mobile food vendors in the city of Toronto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elenis", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Tony Elenis
President & CEO
Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association