



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED**

Establishment of Task Force on Liquor Licensing Issues

Date:	February 6, 2015
To:	City Council
From:	Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards
Wards:	All
Reference Number:	P:\2015\Cluster B\MLS\CC15003

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend the establishment of a Task Force composed of six councillors, (including the Chair of the Licensing and Standards Committee as Chair) to advise staff on processes, policies and by-laws with respect to liquor licensing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards recommends that:

1. City Council delete the recommendations of the Licensing and Standards Committee and replace with:

"City Council establish a Task Force on Liquor Licensing Issues with Terms of Reference in Attachment 1 of the report of February 6, 2015 from the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards."

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of December 16, 2013, City Council requested the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, among other things, to establish a framework for better compliance and enforcement of City by-laws as they relate to restaurants, bars and entertainment establishments and report back to the Licensing and Standards Committee.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2013.MM45.16>

At the Licensing and Standards Committee meeting of January 21, 2015, the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, provided an update on actions taken to date regarding Municipal Interests in Liquor Licensing.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.LS1.3>

COMMENTS

Due to the importance of this issue to Members of Council, residents, businesses and local neighbourhoods, staff have identified the need for a Task Force on Liquor Licensing Issues. The advice from the Task Force will complement the work of staff and stakeholders and the community consultation process. The Task Force will provide input into procedural and policy improvements with respect to the matters that govern licensed premises, including enforcement of the municipal by-laws that mitigate neighbourhood nuisance concerns. In addition, a Task Force would ensure that Councillors and members of the public have an adequate avenue for input on these issues.

The establishment of a Task Force will enhance the collaborative approach to liquor licensing issues, result in a more complete identification of opportunities for addressing community nuisance impacts and will assist in fostering stronger partnerships amongst stakeholders.

The City Clerk has advised that resources are available to support meetings of the Task Force. The Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards will provide policy-related staff support to the Task Force.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Tracey Cook, Executive Director
Municipal Licensing and Standards

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment 1: Terms of Reference for Task Force on Liquor Licensing Issues

Attachment 1: Terms of Reference for Task Force on Liquor Licensing Issues

A. Purpose

1. Restaurants, bars and entertainment establishments with liquor licences are a significant component of the City of Toronto's economic, social and cultural fabric, but also impact the neighbourhoods and communities where they locate particularly due to noise, litter, waste and property standards issues. The City of Toronto recognizes the need to improve the enforcement of municipal by-laws with respect to licensed establishments.
2. The mandate of the Task Force on Liquor Licensing Issues is to:
 - Provide advice to staff on the City's role in liquor licensing;
 - Provide advice to staff on issues associated with operating restaurants, bars and entertainment establishments with respect to liquor licensing and alcohol-related matters; and
 - Provide advice to staff on solutions that mitigate community nuisance concerns.

B. Membership and Term

1. The Task Force on Liquor Licensing Issues will be composed of six (6) Members of City Council, one of whom shall be the Chair of Licensing and Standards Committee.
2. The Chair will be the Chair of Licensing and Standards Committee.
3. Members are appointed by City Council on recommendation of the Striking Committee.
4. Members are appointed for a two-year term. The Committee will meet until the completion of its mandate or until December 31, 2016, whichever comes first.

C. Governance

1. The Task Force on Liquor Licensing Issues will provide its advice to the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards. The Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards will report any recommendations to City Council through the Licensing and Standards Committee.

2. The Task Force on Liquor Licensing Issues will operate in accordance with Chapter 27, Council Procedures, of the City of Toronto Municipal Code.
3. At the call of the Chair, the Task Force on Liquor Licensing Issues will meet quarterly, or more frequently if required.
4. The Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards will provide policy-related staff support to the Task Force on Liquor Licensing Issues.
5. The City Clerk's Office will provide meeting management support to the Task Force on Liquor Licensing Issues.