

Marilyn Toft

From: Ron Taverner <Ron.Taverner@torontopolice.on.ca>
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2015 5:07 PM
To: Clerk
Cc: Pauline Gray; Tom Russell
Subject: Communication for City Council July 7 -Item Ex 7.4 Expanded Gaming at Woodbine Racetrack
Attachments: Letter to WB 26June15.pdf

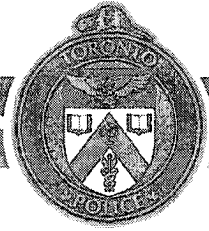
Good Afternoon Ms. Toft

Please provide the attached letter to members of City Council for their Council meeting regarding item EX 7.4, Expanded Gaming at Woodbine Racetrack.

Yours Truly
rt

Ron Taverner
Superintendent #2910
Toronto Police Service
Phone: (416)-808-2314
Email: Ron.Taverner@torontopolice.on.ca

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Mark Saunders
Chief of Police

File Number:

June 26, 2015

To the attention of:

Jim Lawson, President and CEO
Woodbine Entertainment Group

From the office of:

Superintendent Ron Taverner
Unit Commander
23 Division, Toronto Police Service
5230 Finch Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario
M9V 0A1

Dear Mr. Lawson;

Woodbine Racetrack is an important part of the fabric of the community in North-West Toronto. Toronto Police Service has worked closely with Woodbine Entertainment Group for decades. My understanding is that approximately 6 million people visit the site annually and relative to that number, I can confirm that the crime associated with Woodbine is very low.

It has come to my attention that Toronto Medical Officer of Health has put forwarded a recommendation in his report to be considered at an upcoming meeting of City Council, to reduce the hours of operation at Woodbine from 24 hours per day to 18 hours per day.

I understand the rationale for considering this, to try to limit the attendance of some patrons. However, this decision would have the unintended consequence of increasing local security and safety risks at Woodbine and the surrounding community, and is of great concern.


Due to the size and scale of Woodbine, a single late closing time means, all attending patrons would leave the premises at one time creating crowding and pooling together of groups outside the venue. This in turn, puts greater demand on security and policing resources.

The current 24-hour operations model allows patrons to come and leave at their discretion, and prevents large gatherings, thereby creating an inherently safer and more controlled environment. For context, today Woodbine sees approximately six million guests visit the property annually and the crime rate is very low. It is under this 24-hour model that Woodbine has as strong safety record in the community.

As referenced above, Woodbine slots are currently a 24-hour a day operation. To change this model, would create unnecessary security risks and I believe a greater strain on police resources required.

I look forward to speaking about this with you further. Please contact me at (416) 808-2314 or at ron.taverner@torontopolice.on.ca.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RT', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ron Taverner
Superintendent
No. 23 Division
Toronto Police Service