



GOODERHAM & WORTS

NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

TE29.89.19

16 January, 2018

Members of the Toronto and East York Community Council,

RE: TE29.89 – Endorsement of Event for Liquor Licensing Purposes

I am writing you today on behalf of the board and members of the Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association, representing residents of the Distillery District. We ask that you defer approval of the liquor license for the Toronto Christmas Market until there has been an opportunity to update the traffic and crowd management plans based on lessons learned from the 2017 event.

Despite the disruption caused by the Christmas Market, most residents continue to support the event as we acknowledge its importance for the area and the city. However, the huge growth that has been seen year over year requires that plans continue to improve incrementally, something that residents feel has not happened. As the event is not scheduled to start until November 2018, there is no urgency to approving the liquor license at this time and we ask that approval be delayed until such time as event organizers have displayed due diligence through the development of updated plans based on learnings from the 2017 event.

There are three main points, which have been raised to event organizers in previous years and that residents feel have not been adequately addressed:

- The traffic management plan needs to be revisited. With Mill Street being renovated last spring, there was an ideal opportunity to take a completely fresh look at how everything operates, yet no changes were made.
- The Distillery should be providing space on their property for queues and line-ups when needed so they are not spilling on to the public sidewalks, blocking through traffic and access to buildings.
- The Distillery should also be designating space within the parking lots they rent for all of the buses and taxis that need to drop off similar to how the Pan Am Games and many other large events apply best practices in keeping the majority of their vehicle traffic within their venue footprint.

There already exists a forum where event organizers can work with residents and city staff towards improving plans ahead of this year's Christmas Market. The GWNA chairs a regular round-table meeting with representatives from each of the buildings, along with representatives from the Distillery and the Councilor's office. We look forward to working with organizers at this round-table towards an improved Christmas Market in 2018.

Respectfully,

Michael Brewer
President
Gooderham & Worts Neighbourhood Association (GWNA) Inc.



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