



REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION BY CITY COUNCIL

Moratorium on film permits for fraternity houses in residential areas

Date:	June 14, 2010
To:	Toronto Film Board
From:	City Council
Wards:	All

City Council Decision

City Council on June 8 and 9, 2010, referred Motion MM50.10 to the Toronto Film Board for consideration at its meeting on September 30, 2010.

Recommendations

Councillor Vaughan, seconded by Councillor Rae, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Film Commissioner, Toronto Film Office, to immediately implement a moratorium on film permits for all fraternity houses in residentially zoned areas until the harmonized zoning by-law and a new licensing regime is dealt with by Council.

Summary

The Planning and Growth Management Committee is currently in the process of debating a harmonized by-law that will be passed on to Council for approval later this term. As part of its deliberations, fraternity houses are being included for zoning and licensing in the provisions governing rooming houses. The Licensing and Standards Committee will also be required to accommodate this change as well. Frat houses have been identified by nearby residents and neighbourhood associations as very problematic.

Complaints about garbage, noise, property standard violations and illegal and abhorrent behaviour are far too common. Without a proper regulatory environment Frat Houses pose a risk not just to residents but to inhabitants themselves.

Film permits are a privilege that cannot be extended to these operators until firm rules are in place to govern the impact of frat houses. The revenue derived from these properties fuels the problems encountered by the surrounding community and extends the disruption and hostile conditions that characterize the current situation. A new regulatory policy will allow permits to be issued in the future. At that time permits for filming may be allowed on a case by case basis tied to a licensing regime and inspection process that ensures that community standards and safety are respected.

(Submitted to City Council on June 8 and 9, 2010 as MM50.10)