
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM22.2	ACTION			Ward:All
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No Casino without a Referendum - by Councillor Adam Vaughan, seconded by Councillor Maria Augimeri

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Adam Vaughan, seconded by Councillor Maria Augimeri, recommends that:

1. City Council direct that no Casino be permitted in Toronto unless the City Clerk has conducted a City-wide referendum, as part of a general election, with results reported out on a city-wide and a ward-by-ward basis before Council considers the issues.

Summary

In 1997, 72 percent of Torontonians who voted in a city-wide referendum on whether to allow a casino or permanent gaming facility in the City voted NO to casinos. This referendum provides a clear indication that the residents of Toronto do not want a casino or permanent gambling facility constructed in this city. A recent poll confirmed these results with almost the same number of respondents rejecting such a proposal.

Opposition to casinos can take many forms. The impact on local business, in particular bars and restaurants close to a location, the sterilizing impact a large facility has on urban environments, the large amount of parking required and the limited municipal powers of planning related to these facilities are of significant concern.

There are also social and policing concerns on top of public health concerns. Crime, suicide, prostitution, an increase in drug related crimes and loan sharking are also significant worries. All of these issues generate costs for the city that far outweigh any potential economic benefits that might flow from such business.

(Submitted to City Council on April 10 and 11, 2012 as MM22.2)