

**City Hall**  
100 Queen Street West  
East Tower, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

**Tel:** 416-392-3551  
**Fax:** 416-392-1827  
jpennac@toronto.ca  
toronto.ca

October 4, 2012

Councillor Gord Perks  
Chair, Toronto and East York Community Council  
Ward 14  
100 Queen Street West, Suite A14  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Re: TE: 18.55 – Zoning Status of Casinos in Toronto and East York District

Dear Councillor,

On September 11, 2012, the Toronto and East York Community Council (TEYCC) requested the Medical Officer of Health, the Chief of Police, and the Chair of the Toronto Police Services Board to attend the October 10, 2012 TEYCC meeting to respectively report on health issues and impacts related to casinos and problem gambling, and public safety issues related to the location of a casino. The TEYCC has also scheduled a 6:00 pm session on October 10, 2012 in the Council Chambers at City Hall to allow public deputation on the matter of establishing a casino in Toronto and East York.

As you know, on May 14, 2012, Executive Committee directed me to report on the provincial process for the selection of possible future casino locations in the Greater Toronto Area, and to respond to a comprehensive series of questions regarding hosting a casino in Toronto (<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.EX20.15>). City staff are currently conducting the required analysis and a report is scheduled for the November Executive Committee meeting. A key component of this report is input from the Medical Officer of Health report who will also be presenting to the Board of Health on this issue in November. The Toronto Police Service has been consulted and has provided input to the staff report. Furthermore, with the report to Executive Committee in November, City staff will initiate a period of public input on this matter for further analysis and report back to Council in early 2013.

Other than the specific questions of City Planning on the zoning status of casinos in Toronto and East York, which was prepared for September 5, 2012, and questions related to parking standards and capacity, it is clear that City staff and the Medical Officer of Health will not be in a position to provide any substantive input to TEYCC until their current work has been completed.

Given the broader request by Executive Committee, the timing of the report in November, and a future period for public input, I am concerned that the casino discussion scheduled for the October 10, 2012 TEYCC is premature and may confuse the residents of Toronto relative to Council decision making. While I appreciate that the matter is important, I would request that the members of TEYCC consider deferring the scheduled request for specific answers of staff (other than the above noted City Planning zoning issues) until all information and a complete analysis of City-wide concerns have been reported to Executive Committee in November.

I am available to address any questions or concerns that you may have.

Yours truly,

Joseph P. Pennachetti  
City Manager