

TE 25.3.14

Marilyn Toft - My comments for 2013.TE25.3 on July 16, 2013 City Council

From: "Leslie Smejkal" <lsmejkal@orhma.com>

To: <clerk@toronto.ca>

Date: 7/15/2013 11:42 AM

Subject: My comments for 2013.TE25.3 on July 16, 2013 City Council

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SECRETARIAT SECTION

2013 JUL 15 A 11:48

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the July 16, 2013 City Council meeting on item 2013.TE25.3, Final Report - Queen Street West (between Roncesvalles Avenue and Dufferin Street) - Restaurant Study

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.

Comments:

RE: City of Toronto considering proposed bylaw that would cap restaurants ITEM
TE25.3

Dear Mayor Ford and City of Toronto Councillors,

Toronto Restaurant owners and operators strongly oppose a proposed bylaw that would limit restaurants and bars to 25% of all business in the Parkdale Village (Ward 14). This proposed bylaw is unacceptable. The 25% cap on all restaurants includes licensed and non-licensed equally. The staff report does not appear to provide any planning reason to limit the number of non-licensed restaurants in the area, as the clear intent of the by-law is to regulate problems associated with late night activity. The City is trying to regulate the "user" of the premises, as opposed to the restaurant "use".

We understand the residential concerns brought forward with the city within the Parkdale community and we are sympathetic to these matters. Our industry is heavily regulated and many laws are applicable to address the concerns raised by the residents. We would appreciate the time and opportunity to work together with enforcement to apply the appropriate laws to ensure restaurants and residents can live harmoniously.

The Toronto restaurant industry was not consulted before proposing this bylaw. This bylaw would limit economic growth not just for the restaurant industry but for our city's economy and vibrancy. Restaurants are embedded in many neighborhoods and many revitalize a previously dilapidated building/neighbourhood bringing it back to life with positive value to properties and of course visitor experiences.

Restaurant owners work hard, provide reliable employment opportunities, live in the city and give back to the community. They operate with razor thin margins of 1 to 3% and they accept competition as a price of doing business.

We ask that you defer this item and provide more time to our industry and others that would be impacted with this precedent setting proposed bylaw.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,
Tony Elenis, President & CEO
Debra DeMonte, Toronto Restaurant Region, Chair