

**City Council****Motion without Notice**

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| MM32.22 | ACTION |  |  | Ward:15 |
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**Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario Liquor Licence Application - 526A Lawrence Avenue West - by Councillor Josh Colle, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon**

- \* This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*
- \* This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral.*
- \* This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

**Recommendations**

Councillor Josh Colle, seconded by Councillor Mary-Margaret McMahon, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the City Clerk to advise the Registrar of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario that the liquor licence application for Regal – St. Clair Bridge Club, 526A Lawrence Avenue West (“Premises”), is not in the public interest having regard to the needs and wishes of the residents because of issues including, but not limited to, hours of operation, noise, safety, security personnel, security cameras, signage, lighting and litter and that the Registrar of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario should issue a Proposal to review the liquor licence application.
2. City Council request the Licence Appeal Tribunal (“LAT”) to provide the City with an opportunity to be made a party in any proceedings with respect to the Premises.
3. City Council authorize the City Solicitor to attend all proceedings before the LAT in this matter and direct the City Solicitor to take all necessary actions so as to give effect to this Motion, including adding and deleting conditions to any liquor licence issued for the Premises, in consultation with the Ward Councillor.

**Summary**

The premises at 526A Lawrence Avenue West currently operates as a social bridge club with a dedicated membership. The Regal - St. Clair Bridge Club has been in operation since 1931 and has operated in the Lawrence Plaza for 44 years. Its membership is in decline and in an effort to stay in the community, have looked for opportunities to remain viable including renting out the space when not in use.

Consequently, an application for a liquor licence was submitted by a second party to operate a karaoke bar on the site during weekend evening hours when bridge club members do not utilize the space. The space would be rented out specifically for this purpose.

The location of the Bridge Club is in a community shopping plaza comprised of retail shops, a bank and one family restaurant and a cafe. As there are no licensed establishments nearby, consideration must be given to potential impact on existing business and community such as increased traffic, noise, and safety issues that arise from the operation of a bar. Given a history of illegal booze cans and after hour's bars operating just south of this location and with its proximity to these know offenders, there is the potential for this establishment to extend into after hours operations. In addition, this plaza has experienced incidents of crime such as muggings of residents. Late night drinking establishments are cited as having the potential to increase criminal activity.

The Premises is also located in close proximity to residential properties. In order to ensure the continued tenure of the Bridge Club and to afford the current owner of the premises, residents and the area Councillor comfort with this use, conditions that clearly state the hours of operation, and address issues of noise, public safety and traffic must be met.

Because the City should voice its objections to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario as soon as possible, it is urgent that City Council consider this matter at this council meeting.

(Submitted to City Council on April 3 and 4, 2013 as MM32.22)

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM32.22