

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM41.7	ACTION			Ward:All
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Changes to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario's Public Notice Policies and Practices - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Frank Di Giorgio

** 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 Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Frank Di Giorgio, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario to reinstate its practice of advertising Public Notices for liquor sales licence applications in newspapers of the municipality in which the establishment is located.
2. City Council request the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario to notify the public when an application for a transfer of a liquor sales licence has been filed.

Summary

As of September 30, 2013, the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) implemented a revised notification plan for alcohol licensing wherein Public Notices for certain liquor sales licence applications will now be posted on the AGCO's website, in addition to the Public Notice placard which has historically been displayed in the window of the establishment under review for a licence. The attached Information Bulletin No. 033, produced by the AGCO, summarizes the changes and reasons for such.

While the posting of liquor sales licence applications online is an improvement in the AGCO's public notification efforts, the AGCO has, at the same time, ended their practice of placing formal Public Notice advertisements in the local newspapers. "Administrative relief" and "cost savings for businesses" are cited as the rationale for an end to placing Public Notices in newspapers which, I believe, is a vital part of a well-rounded notification strategy. The use of the internet and online resources is ever-increasing; however, there are still those who do not have access to the internet or in the cases of some, are not computer-savvy and would consequently rely on the newspaper for information such as a liquor sales license application.

Currently, Public Notices are not required for transfers of liquor sales licences. This denies the public an opportunity to comment in circumstances where a liquor sales licence may be

transferred from one establishment to another which a community may already have issues with. I believe this is a missing piece of the AGCO's engagement of local residents for liquor licence matters and should be included.

(Submitted to City Council on November 13 and 14, 2013 as MM41.7)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM41.7

Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario Information Bulletin No. 033

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-63486.pdf>