
City Council

Notice of Motion

MM45.16	ACTION			Ward:All
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Protecting Communities and Helping Small Businesses by Improving the Licensing of Bars and Restaurants - by Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

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

Recommendations

Councillor Mike Layton, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, in consultation with the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO), to establish a working group consisting of interested Councillors, Toronto Association of Business Improvement Areas, relevant residents associations and industry associations for the purpose of establishing a framework for better compliance and enforcement of City by-laws as they relate to restaurants, bars and entertainment establishments, including possible changes to the provincial liquor licensing processes, and that the Executive Director report back to the Licensing and Standards Committee in 2014 with recommendations for moving forward.
2. City Council support the recently tabled Bill 150, The Liquor Licensing Statute Law Amendment Act, 2013, which allows municipalities to have greater control over licensing entertainment establishments within their boundaries, and City Council express its support for Bill 150 in writing to the Province of Ontario and MPPs, including the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

Summary

Toronto has a vibrant and growing culinary and entertainment industry. The hospitality industry employs thousands of Torontonians and many visitors come to our city to enjoy the diversity it has to offer.

However, in some communities, tension is building between bars, restaurants and the surrounding neighbourhoods. While a handful of establishments may cause the problems, neighbours are left to oppose most new establishments because of both the process and their past experiences. Rather than being placed in a defensive position, we should be encouraging new entrepreneurs who are willing to be good neighbours by following our by-laws and regulations that protect surrounding neighbourhoods.

I am proposing we bring residents and businesses together to find solutions to community concerns and that we request changes to the AGCO licensing process to facilitate better enforcement of by-laws for communities and more predictability in the licensing process for business operators.

The causes of community concerns go beyond simply the bad practices of a handful of businesses. The institutions, by-laws and resources allocated to enforcement do not meet the task of protecting communities while helping create a fair playing field for businesses. Further, the provincial AGCO regulations, procedures and enforcement practices are failing our communities.

All of these shortcomings and the frustrations that have resulted, are forcing communities to oppose liquor license, patio and Committee of Adjustment applications, out of a legitimate fear of the potential impacts on their quality of life.

(Submitted to City Council on December 16 and 17, 2013 as MM45.16)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM45.16

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-64791.pdf>

Bill 150 An Act to amend various statutes with respect to liquor licensing

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2013/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-64943.pdf>