TORONTO Member Motion

City Council

Notice of Motion

MM55.21	ACTION			Ward:All

Review of Approval Processes for Outdoor Events seeking Liquor Licences and Noise Exemptions - by Councillor Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Cesar Palacio

**** 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 Frances Nunziata, seconded by Councillor Cesar Palacio, recommends that:

1. City Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to consult the Toronto Police Service, the Alcohol Gaming Commission of Ontario and relevant City divisions to review the approval processes for liquor licence permits, particularly for those at outside venues and with extended hours, such review should include:

    a. an assessment to ensure the adequacy and availability of City resources, particularly emergency service resources, to respond in the event of single or simultaneous large scale events; and

    b. making this information available to, and informing to, the approval and/or permitting processes.

2. City Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to undertake a review of the noise exemption application process, including a review of Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 591, Noise, such review should include:

    a. the exemption application and approval process;

    b. the authority to refuse issuance of an exemption, should other factors determine unsuitability beyond relying upon the objection of the local Councillor;

    c. the opportunity to include the Toronto Police Service in the circulation, where necessary; and

    d. other relevant amendments to ensure the community is adequately protected.

3. City Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards to consult the Toronto Police Service and other relevant City divisions to discuss opportunities to enhance the sharing of information related to large scale events to assist in necessary planning and response.

Summary

Throughout the weekend of August 1-3, 2014, an event was held at the Toronto Plaza Hotel at 1677 Wilson Avenue, in the outside parking lot. The event was included in a communication to Toronto-East York Community Council under "Endorsement for Events of Municipal Significance" (TE 32.74), as a part of the schedule of events for the Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival. City Council, at its meeting held on June 10, 11, 12 and 13, 2014 granted a non-objection for the beer garden event to be held on August 1 and 2, 2014 until 2 a.m.

An additional communication requested that August 3, 2014 also be included. The City Clerk subsequently wrote to the Alcohol Gaming Commission of Ontario advising of the non-objection to issuance of the permit for the three days.

The organizers of the event also obtained a noise exemption for the night of August 1, 2014, from 9:00 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. Based upon a non-objection, the exemption was granted.

On each of the evenings of August 1 and August 2, 2014, this event drew in excess of an estimated 7,000 attendees, and included an elevated stage and loud speakers with amplified music. The extent of the music being played had a significant impact on the residents that were in Wards, a notable distance beyond the event location.

It is important for the City to ensure that prior to the granting of permits or providing permissions/non-objections which allow these types of events to occur, that consideration is given to the ability of the City to adequately respond, ensuring that public safety is maintained, and to take steps to mitigate the impact these types of events may have on the surrounding communities, including the impact of noise.

(Submitted to City Council on August 25 and 26, 2014 as MM55.21)

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM55.21