
Date: November 10, 2015
To: Members of Etobicoke York Community Council
From: Councillor Mark Grimes
Subject: Request for Reports Regarding a Potential Methadone Clinic at 2898 Lake Shore Blvd W.

SUMMARY:

It has come to my attention through members in my community that there may be a methadone clinic opening up on Lake Shore Blvd W at Sixth Street. I have concerns about a clinic of this nature potentially opening in such close proximity to Seventh Street School, if the clinic is not managed responsibly. I immediately asked Municipal Licensing and Standards, City Planning, Toronto Building, Toronto Public Health to investigate the approvals necessary for this type of business. I learned that there have been no applications made to any City department requesting this type of use, nor any permits to renovate the building for this purpose. I also learned that is no specific business licence or zoning requirements for this type of business - it is treated the same as an application for any medical clinic.

Everyone has the right to be treated with respect and should not face discrimination in seeking treatment for addiction. It is unfortunate that there is a need for these types of facilities in our city, and I believe there should be outreach by the clinic operator with information about the types of services and treatment being provided. I also believe the local community should be consulted and have a strong voice in how and where these facilities operate in their neighbourhood.

I understand the City is currently investigating the feasibility of licensing methadone clinics but a report will not be available until mid-2016.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2015.LS5.6>

The Region of Peel has faced similar circumstances and has already successfully enacted a bylaw licensing methadone clinics.

http://www7.mississauga.ca/documents/bylaws/Methadone_Licensing_By-law.pdf

T: 416.397.9273
F: 416.397.9279
E: councillor_grimes@toronto.ca
www.markgrimes.ca

I would like the City of Toronto to review the region of Peel's bylaw and report back on the feasibility of enacting a similar bylaw immediately.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Etobicoke York Community Council request the Director or Toronto Buildings, Director of Community Planning, Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards, and Toronto Public Health report to the next meeting of Etobicoke York Community Council on the current municipal requirements for public or privately owned methadone clinics in Etobicoke, and in addition the feasibility of providing notice to the local Councillor when any application is submitted for the purpose of opening a methadone clinic in the Etobicoke York District.
2. That Etobicoke York Community Council request the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards review the Region of Peel bylaw regarding methadone clinics and report back to the Licensing and Standards Committee on the feasibility of enacting the same or similar bylaw in the City of Toronto immediately.
3. That this new bylaw and business licensing process include an educational component and consultation for the community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Grimes
Councillor Ward 6

T: 416.397.9273
F: 416.397.9279
E: councillor_grimes@toronto.ca
www.markgrimes.ca