

Licensing and Standards Committee - My comments for 2015.LS1.3 on January 21, 2015 Licensing and Standards Committee

From: "Leslie Smejkal" <lsmejkal@orhma.com>
To: <lsc@toronto.ca>
Date: 01/20/2015 4:04 PM
Subject: My comments for 2015.LS1.3 on January 21, 2015 Licensing and Standards Committee
CC: "Tony Elenis" <telenis@orhma.com>, <a.barberian@gmail.com>

To the City Clerk:

Please add my comments to the agenda for the January 21, 2015 Licensing and Standards Committee meeting on item 2015.LS1.3, Municipal Interests in Liquor Licensing

I understand that my comments and the personal information in this email will form part of the public record and that my name will be listed as a correspondent on agendas and minutes of City Council or its committees. Also, I understand that agendas and minutes are posted online and my name may be indexed by search engines like Google.



City of Toronto – Licensing Standards Committee

Attention: Councillor Cesar Palacio (Chair)

EMAIL: lsc@toronto.ca

ORHMA COMMENTS

RE: Item LS1.2 Presentation –Divisions Reporting to the Licensing and Standards Committee

Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, Committee Room 1

ORHMA Who We Are: The Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association (ORHMA) was formed in 1999 as a result of the amalgamation of the Ontario Hotel & Motel Association and the Ontario Restaurant Association.

ORHMA was a member organization that had been in existence since 1925. Its membership was composed of two major sectors of the hospitality industry; the accommodation sector which included large and small hotels, motels and motor inns and the Ontario Restaurant Association made up of foodservice and license operations and formed in 1928.

Today, ORHMA is Canada's largest provincial non-profit industry association that represents the interests of Ontario's foodservice and accommodation sectors. ORHMA is dedicated to fostering a positive business environment for Ontario's hospitality and tourism industry, while providing value-added services to its members.

ORHMA's Government Relations Department represents the industry's interests to the Government of Ontario and to City Halls across the province on issues such as taxation, business regulation, beverage alcohol, labour issues, public health, tourism and municipal by-laws.

ORHMA & Industry Impact: The hospitality industry directly employs over 400,000 Ontarians, representing 7% of total employment. The City of Toronto restaurants alone employ approximately 70,000 employees.

ORHMA appreciates the effort that Municipal Licensing Standards (MLS) has put into establishing the Hospitality Working Group – we are supportive of this. We are pleased to have been invited to participate in the group – I will do so.

As many of you know restaurants are a big component of a vibrancy which is a key ingredient to a great city such as Toronto to build upon visitor experiences. Culinary and community tourism are growing segment trends showing significant global growth. New Orleans, Boston, Paris and so many more are proud of the food service culture and the dollars it brings in to their cities. Toronto needs to progress and find ways to build upon being a culinary and vibrant leader not prohibit growth.

Toronto restaurants are embedded in many neighbourhoods and many revitalize a previously decrepit zone bringing it back to life with positive value to properties and off course visitor experiences. Many owners work hard, provide reliable employment opportunities, live in the city and give back to the community. The industry is made up of hard working individuals who operate with razor thin margins of 1 to 3% and need city support.

The City of Toronto has a broad range of other direct means to achieving regulation of restaurants and restaurant patrons who cause conflicts with residential neighbourhoods. We look forward to working together to address such issues that have caused the community such grief.

ORHMA will remain engaged as an important stakeholder for shaping policies on such hospitality issues in the City of Toronto. We look forward to working with the MLS team and all the other stakeholders. Together we can make a difference.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,
Tony Elenis
President, CEO
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