



City Councillor – Ward 17 • Davenport

November 14, 2016

TO: Chair and Members of Etobicoke York Community Council

RE: Request to support Yongehurst Distillery CO's request for a "Tied House" Liquor License Sales at 346 Westmoreland Avenue North

SUMMARY:

Over the past few years, craft brewery, wine making and spirit production has become increasingly popular among urban young professionals throughout North America, including many Canadian provinces. As part of the City's continued commitment to liquor modernization and consumer choice, the introduction of tasting/sampling rooms will allow patrons more opportunities to enjoy local craft beer, wines and spirits directly from the manufacturer.

John-Paul Sacco and Rocco Panacci are the founders and creators of Yongehurst Distillery Co at 346 Westmoreland Avenue North. Their family upbringing, cultural roots and traditions were instrumental in cultivating their desire to experiment and combine bold flavours with science to create a series of unique spirits in Toronto. Shortly after opening in early 2016, they introduced their first product line, Harbour Rum, which was the first locally crafted rum in Toronto using local ingredients. Yongehurst Distillery CO is looking to produce a multitude of unique spirits including spiced rum, Canadian apple brandy, herbal liqueurs and amaro.

Yongehurst Distillery CO is currently licensed only to sell their products in bottles via their retail store. At this time, they cannot sell samples, which is why they are applying for a "Tied-House", otherwise known as a Liquor Sales License. Currently, the "Manufacture Limited Liquor Sales License" will only cover wineries and breweries whereas Spirits require a "Tied-House" License in order to operate. The AGCO allows all distilleries to have a "Tied-House", which is a way for a distillery to showcase their spirits by selling tasting flights and mixing drinks, for sale, within the distillery itself.

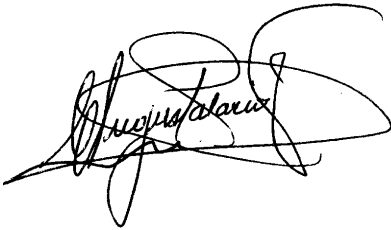
This allows a manufacturer to host an on-site restaurant/establishment where products may be "showcased" on their own or in conjunction with other brands and types of liquor. In this instance, the manufacturers' retail store is located on the same manufacturing site as the "Tied House", which will allow the licensee to bring sealed, unopened liquor purchased from the retail store onto the licensed premises for the purposes of selling it to a patron. This allows restaurant patrons that wish to purchase product for personal use from the retail store to pay for the product on their restaurant bill.

Their goal is to create an experience where people can smell and taste the products and then learn about how they can transform those products into a variety of spirits and exciting flavours. As their operation continues to grow, they intend to run tours and host events to showcase their products and services, all the while educating people about the production of spirits and encouraging safe consumption.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Etobicoke York Community Council recommends that:

- 1). City Council support Yongehurst Distillery CO's application to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for a Tied House Liquor Sales at its location of 346 Westmoreland Avenue North, and the City Clerk is directed to advise the AGCO accordingly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cesar Palacio', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Cesar Palacio
Toronto City Councillor
Ward 17 - Davenport