



**Oxford Properties Group**  
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April 25, 2017

Mayor and Members  
Toronto City Council  
City Hall  
100 Queen Street West,  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5H 3N3

Mayor Tory and Councillors,

Re: Licensing and Standards Committee, LS18.3

On behalf of Yorkdale Shopping Centre, I am writing to ask for your support of the recommendations of the Licensing and Standards Committee.

For a number of years, Yorkdale Shopping Centre has pursued an exemption to the Retail Business Holidays Act to allow it to open on the six secular holidays that the Act restricts. We have no interest in opening on Christmas Day, Good Friday or Easter Sunday. (Although on the recent Good Friday and Easter Sunday holidays, tens of thousands of people showed up at Yorkdale, expecting the Centre to be open). We believe that Yorkdale can meet any test of holiday criteria that the City might choose to utilize. We look forward to doing so in our written submission and at the consultation process.

Yorkdale Shopping Centre and its retailers believe in absolute conformity with the Employment Standards Act and will continue to do so.

Yorkdale is a successful retail operator at a time when the retail environment is very challenging. Obviously, competition from regional malls on the borders of Toronto, that are exempted from the Act and can open while we are closed, is significant. The result is the flow of many millions of City retail dollars (and jobs) to neighbouring municipalities. It is ironic that many malls with far less obvious tourism attributes than Yorkdale are open when we are closed. Further, e-commerce knows no holiday regulation and we are ever mindful of the inroads that 24/7 on-line shopping is making and its substantial impact on the conventional shopping sector. Additionally the inequality within Toronto with those with the exemption results in an unfair competitive environment.

We strongly encourage you to endorse the Committee's recommendations which would allow Yorkdale Shopping Centre and its retailers to begin a process to address these disadvantages.

Our submission to Licensing and Standards Committee is appended to the report as Item LS18.3.1.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Claire Santamaria", written over a horizontal line.

Claire Santamaria  
Director & General Manager