



CITY COUNCIL REFERRAL OF MEMBER MOTION

Investigating Mandatory Epinephrine Auto-Injectors (EpiPens) in Toronto Eateries and Other multi-use Public Facilities

Date: March 30, 2017
To: Licensing and Standards Committee
From: City Council
Wards: Ward All

CITY COUNCIL DECISION

City Council on March 28 and 29, 2017, referred Motion MM27.29 to the Licensing and Standards Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Councillor James Pasternak, seconded by Councillor Josh Colle, recommends that:

1. City Council request the City Manager to explore a policy option for mandatory placement of epinephrine auto-injectors in restaurants and potentially other public facilities located in the City of Toronto and to report back to Licensing and Standards Committee with information on but not limited to:
 - a. examining and assessing the health benefits for the mandatory availability of epinephrine auto-injectors in eateries and other public facilities;
 - b. outlining the costs for the City of Toronto and/or the restaurant industry resulting from this requirement including:
 1. purchasing the epinephrine auto-injectors;
 2. enforcing the requirement for epinephrine auto-injectors by City By-Law officers;
 3. training for staff at public facilities; and

c. any other potential issues to consider when requiring epinephrine auto-injectors at designated locations.

SUMMARY

Food allergies are a growing public health issue in Toronto and Canada with 2.5 million Canadians self-reporting at least one food allergy. The rate is highest among children under three years old with an estimated 6-8 percent affected by a food allergy. The Government of Canada identifies peanuts, tree nuts, seafood, egg, milk, sesame, soy, mustard, and wheat as the most common food allergens affecting Canadians.

One serious allergic reaction is Anaphylaxis that can rapidly onset and may cause death. An estimated 3,500 Canadians experience anaphylactic shock each year, of which 10-15 will tragically die from the allergic reaction. In Ontario, while food allergy deaths have been decreasing it is vital that the City do what it can to preserve this trend. Those with allergies that put them at risk of an anaphylactic reaction carry an epinephrine auto-injector (such as EpiPen or Allerject) that contains life-saving medication in case of an allergic reaction.

In May 2013, the House of Commons unanimously passed Motion 230 to raise awareness of anaphylaxis and direct the Government to take action.

Given that the City of Toronto is home to over 8,000 restaurants and hundreds other public facilities, it is worthwhile to investigate if the mandatory provision for Epinephrine Auto-Injectors in restaurants and public facilities would enhance the safety of residents and visitors to our City.

Communications (City Council)

(March 27, 2017) E-mail from John Warren Townsend (MM.New.MM27.29.1)