

From: [Anna Victoria Wong](#)
To: [Councillor Lee](#); Clerk
Subject: COMMUNITY INPUT: Expansion of Woodbine Casino Services
Date: April 23, 2018 5:12:57 PM

Attention City Clerk and City Councillor,

Please add my comments to the agenda for the April 24, 2018 City Council meeting on item 2018.EX33.2, Expanded Gaming at Woodbine Racetrack - City Conditions. 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.

As a service provider with 30 years of experience for the East Asian community, I am writing on behalf of my agency—Chinese Family Services of Ontario—to express our concerns over the possible expansion of casino services at Woodbine Racetracks. The East Asian population has grown significantly in the past 2 decades, and we have witnessed targeted marketing against the Chinese community for the past 10+ years by for-profit gaming organizations. The service level of gambling addiction support has NOT kept up with the rate of population growth nor the growth rate of casino and bingo hall business for the Asian community, by any means. Annually, we serve 300+ of individuals for problem gambling rehabilitation, providing close to 3000 hours of services, and that is only a FRACTION of the problem with our target community, as the East Asian culture is stigma-prone, and their help seeking behaviour is known to be not at par with that of the mainstream community.

We are also worried about the decision to first launch the new services and to conduct social impact research after. This decision makes one wonder if the City is making business a priority over family well-being and community health and safety. As an experienced and flagship service provider of Problem Gambling rehab to the East Asian community, let us remind you that there are way more gaming institutions, legal and illegal, in the city than there are service providers. If tax profits are lucrative and important for the sustainability of the City, we strongly urge to you to consider the amount of investment that is required to remedy the social problems, i.e. the societal costs. We believe the city needs to have mitigation and social rehab measures in place BEFORE any launch of such services. We consider consulting us and making ethno-specific service providers a priority when deciding on gaming service expansions, and as well as social service support, which are, hopefully, proactive and pre-launch. Thank you very much for your attention and consideration.

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