



February 28, 2019

Mr. Michael Thompson  
Economic Development Committee Chair  
10<sup>th</sup> Floor, West Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street  
Toronto ON M45 2N2

EMAIL: [ecdc@toronto.ca](mailto:ecdc@toronto.ca)

**RE: Economic Development Committee Meeting Item EC2.3**

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

Pleas know I am writing to you on behalf of the Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association (ORHMA). The ORHMA represents 4,000 members and 11,000 establishments across Ontario at both the provincial and municipal levels and in Toronto through the ORHMA Toronto Region. Our members represent a wide range of establishments including fine dining restaurants, local pubs, ethnic and trendy foodservice concepts. Many of them operate with patios located on city boulevards. An overwhelming percentage of our membership is operated by independent small business. We are writing to you regarding Item EC2.3 harmonized bylaw and fees for sidewalk cafes and marketing displays.

The ORHMA has been actively engaged in consultations with the City of Toronto Municipal Licensing staff for several years. We appreciate their efforts working with ORHMA and our industry to streamline what appeared to be very onerous rules at the beginning of the bylaw harmonization for fees and standards.

We recommend that you continue to support our ORHMA efforts to keep all Toronto existing patios open – phase in any reasonable patio permit fees and allow businesses to plan their business budgets accordingly.

We support the proposed harmonized Bylaw and that it will be implemented in a manner that provides certainty to the business community.

We support a gradual implementation of this harmonized Bylaw along with a solid education campaign directed to business owners and operators to ensure they clearly understand new Bylaws and fees.

We had recommended and support existing permits will be "grand parented" and brought into compliance with the harmonized Bylaw over time, when the permit is transferred to someone else; when the street that the business is located on is reconstructed; or when an existing permit holder applies to amend the size of their permit area (for example, by adding a new curbside café). It is very important restaurant property owners have the opportunity to be grandfathered once selling their property meaning a sidewalk café would remain as per permit from the selling owner to the new owner. We understand the MLS team will work on this matter going forward and we encourage their efforts to do so.

We thank you for your time, consideration and commitment to working with Toronto's hospitality industry. Together, we can make a true difference in sustaining and growing Toronto's small businesses.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elenis', enclosed within a large, sweeping, horizontal oval stroke.

Tony Elenis

President & CEO

Ontario Restaurant Hotel & Motel Association

cc: Rik Ocvirk, Chair ORHMA Toronto Region

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