

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Toronto City Council
12th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attn: Marilyn Toft, Council Secretariat

Delivered by email to: councilmeeting@toronto.ca

Re: PH27.2 – Zoning Conformity for Official Plan Employment Areas – Phase 1 Final Report and Phase 2 Update

Dear Mayor Tory and Members of Toronto City Council,

On behalf of **Ukrainian Canadian School Board -Toronto Branch**, I wish to express our concern and alarm with respect to the report on Zoning By-Law conformity for employment zones in the Official Plan, specifically the proposed removal of permissions for bingo halls and related uses in the Former City of Etobicoke Zoning By-law (Attachment 9 to the Final Report).

Our charity is one of 66 local charities that rely on Delta Bingo and Gaming St. Clair, to support our organization in the Toronto community. Without that support we will simply not be able to function.

DETAILS of OUR ORGANIZATION *The Ukrainian Canadian School Board in Toronto is an educational body whose members are all volunteers representing various spectres of the community.*

It not only develops new educational programmes but also coordinates student workshops, seminars and educational events such as Book Appreciation events namely the Book Festivals and Live Word Festivals. during which many books are distributed gratis to all participants.

The Ukrainian School Board supports and organizes joint youth activities, such as choirs, drama troupes, instrumental and dance ensembles; We reach out to schools, youth organizations and churches asking for their participation in a joint concert on a given day.

It co-ordinates joint participation by children and volunteers at festivals and the community events involving youth such as participating in the Children's Corner at Centennial Park in Etobicoke at the end of August.

The Ukrainian Canadian School Board believes that instruction of language, social sciences, humanities and observance of Ukrainian traditions can be integrated into the daily experiences of a child's schooling and life in Canada - be they first or fifth generation Canadians of Ukrainian descent or non-Ukrainians interested in studying the Ukrainian culture.

Each child is a member of his or her ethnocultural community and through it is a member of the broader Canadian multicultural community. By providing a rich variety of educational experiences aimed at strengthening ties to family roots, traditions and culture, children develop a sense of self-worth and pride in the traditions of their ancestors encouraging racial and ethnic harmony and cross-cultural understanding.

The last 18 months have been very challenging for everyone, and our organization is no exception. We have struggled to survive with very little funding as Delta St. Clair was closed for 420 days over the course of the pandemic. Now, due to a proposed expropriation from the City of Toronto and Metrolinx, the Delta St. Clair location will have to move to another site. The new site (at 360 Evans Ave.) is currently zoned to allow for a Bingo Hall. Under the proposed By-law amendment that permission would be revoked.

As you can appreciate, finding an appropriate venue at a reasonable price in the current real estate environment is a real challenge. We are looking forward to the move to 360 Evans Ave. and urge you not to remove this permission and allow us to re-locate as planned with the current permissions.

Based on the concerns identified above, we respectfully request that the Draft By-laws and report, specifically as it applies to the use of employment lands for bingo halls, is removed entirely or in the very least referred back to City Planning staff for dedicated public consultation and review. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request, and we look forward to further discussions on this matter.

Sincerely,

Luba Zaraska, Member of the Board – CFO

Ukrainian Canadian School Board – Toronto Branch

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