

Attachment 6: City-led Consultation and Information Sessions

November 2023

Between May to September 2023, City of Toronto staff led several public consultation sessions including:

- One additional Residents Association consultation;
- One public session to communicate general findings from stakeholder engagement; and
- Two public sessions to get insights on draft licensing and zoning amendments.

Additional Residents Association Consultation (May 2023)

On May 11, 2023, City of Toronto staff facilitated an extra consultation session for Residents Associations to provide opportunity for representation from different neighbourhoods across Toronto. Similar views, ideas and concerns were expressed in these additional sessions as compared to the stakeholder groups in the VibeLab public consultation program.

Eight participants represented neighbourhoods such as York Quay, Bay-Cloverhill, Gooderham & Worts, South Armour Heights, and Morningside. Three out of eight participants opted to keep their neighbourhood anonymous in City reports.

Following the discussion structure set out by the external vendor, VibeLab, for the other consultation sessions, City staff led discussions regarding:

- Access to cultural and social activities;
- Where nightclubs should be permitted in the city;
- Public safety and community nuisance concerns;
- Distinguishing between a nightclub, restaurant, and a bar;
- Differentiating between 'lower impact' and 'higher impact' establishments towards the surrounding area;
- The floor area that restaurants can use for entertainment;
- Inclusive nighttime social culture; and
- Barriers to inclusive social culture.

Information Session (June 2023)

On June 5, 2023, staff held a virtual information session, which identified themes from the city-wide survey and public consultations. City staff also shared next steps for the review, including public briefing sessions of draft recommendations in Fall 2023.

Session on Draft Licensing and Zoning Proposals (September 2023)

On September 6 and 7, 2023, City staff led two public briefing sessions regarding the proposed amendments to business licensing and regulation, and zoning.

Examples of insights/concerns related to licensing raised during the meetings include:

Insights/Concerns from Sessions	Response
Participants generally supported the proposals but had reservations about amendments addressing the problematic establishments	Ensuring appropriate level of oversight and focus of enforcement resources on problematic establishments is a key component of the staff report
Participants asked about how MLS is responding to the issue of nightclubs operating under the Eating or Drinking Establishment licence	Proposing updates to food and entertainment licences definitions; also, proposing to require establishments, such as restaurants that provide nightclub services to obtain an Entertainment Establishment/Nightclub licence on top of an Eating or Drinking Establishment licence
Participants sought clarity on what is needed to meet proposed licensing requirements, such as a noise control plan or a patron management plan control plan	Outlining in Chapter 545 key information that must be provided in the plans
Most participants are concerned about excessive noise from business establishments	Requiring certain establishments to proactively plan for noise control through a noise control plans submitted upon licence application/renewal
Participants are unsure of how the Take-Out category will change from current state	Currently, Take-Out establishments require a licence but are not defined in Chapter 545, MLS is proposing a definition and streamlined requirements into the By-law

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