

From: [Dana Duncanson](#)
To: [Economic and Community Development](#)
Cc: [Cesar Mesen](#); [Igor Prelic](#)
Subject: [External Sender] Agenda Item 2026.EC30.6 – Follow Up on Refining the Definition of an Entertainment Establishment/Nightclub
Date: July 13, 2026 6:30:11 PM
Attachments: [img-ed34d213-85a2-41a3-aaf5-fe36e628c71b.png](#)
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Good afternoon,

Please find below a written submission on behalf of one of our member businesses, The Pint Public House, for consideration as part of the public record on Item 2026.EC30.6:

Good afternoon Members of Council,

My name is Cesar Mesen, and I am the Operating Partner of The Pint Public House in downtown Toronto.

I appreciate the City's efforts to clarify the distinction between restaurants and entertainment establishments. As an operator who has worked closely with Municipal Licensing and Standards, I can say that greater clarity is something our industry genuinely needs.

The Pint is a restaurant and sports bar. Every week we welcome thousands of guests who come to enjoy a meal, watch sporting events, attend corporate functions, private events, and community gatherings. Entertainment is an important part of the guest experience we provide, but it is not our primary business.

Like many large restaurants in Toronto, we exceed 150 occupants. Because of our size, liquor licence, operating hours, and occasional entertainment, we transitioned to the Expanded Activity Eating or Drinking Establishment licence. We have invested significant time and resources to comply with the City's licensing requirements and operating conditions, and we are committed to being responsible operators and good neighbours.

What operators need most is certainty.

Businesses should clearly understand what activities are permitted under an Expanded Activity Eating or Drinking Establishment licence and at what point a business truly becomes an Entertainment Establishment or Nightclub.

Simply having live music, DJs during sporting events, private functions, promotional activations, or occasional entertainment should not, on their own, result in a restaurant being treated as a nightclub if food and beverage service remains the primary purpose of the business.

*I would encourage Council to consider adopting a guiding principle such as:
"Where food and beverage service remains the primary business activity and entertainment is incidental to that operation, the establishment should not be classified as an Entertainment Establishment or Nightclub."*

I believe a clear principle like this would provide certainty for both operators and City staff, resulting in more consistent and transparent enforcement. It would also recognize the important role that restaurants play in supporting Toronto's tourism, hospitality, sports, and cultural sectors while ensuring that businesses whose primary purpose is entertainment continue to be regulated appropriately.

Large restaurants should be able to create an energetic and engaging atmosphere for their guests without the risk of being reclassified solely because they host entertainment that complements their core restaurant business.

I commend Council and City staff for undertaking this review and respectfully ask that the final definition provides clear, objective criteria that allow responsible restaurant operators to invest, innovate, and grow with confidence.

Our experience over the past year has shown me that responsible operators want to comply—we simply need rules that are clear, consistent, and predictable. I hope our experience can help improve the framework for everyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.”

Thanks,
Dana



Dana Duncanson

Managing Director

t 647.290.9066

e dduncanson@tdwbia.ca

w tdwbia.ca

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