

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM19.41	ACTION			Ward:All
---------	--------	--	--	----------

Request the Province of Ontario to Suspend Liquor Licenses for Establishments with Illegal Handguns - by Councillor Cesar Palacio, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Cesar Palacio, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata, recommends that:

1. City Council pass a resolution asking the Province of Ontario to legislate a suspension of the Alcohol and Gaming Commission liquor licence for establishments where the Toronto Police Service has evidence of multiple gun-related offences occurring on the premises.
2. City Council request the City Manager in consultation with the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, the Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire, Public Health, among other government agencies to report back to the appropriate Committee on proactive enforcement measures that can be utilized under the City of Toronto Act, 2006 to deter illegal criminal activity by dealing with it in a more comprehensive, cohesive and co-ordinated way, to address issues where crime is known or is suspected to be taking place, similar to the action that was applied by Municipal Licensing and Standards when they issued the temporary suspension of the business licence at Cloud 9 Café at 1530 Danforth Avenue.

Summary

Several recent occurrences at licensed establishments in the City of Toronto have accentuated the demand for tougher liquor licensing rules and regulations, especially in respect to incidents that involve an illegal firearm.

The City of Toronto is committed to decreasing the availability of handguns in our City and has enacted measures, including amending the Toronto Land Use Zoning By-Law to restrict the use of guns and gun-associated activities. Deterring gun-related offences is a complex plan and involves multiple stakeholders including governments, police services, community agencies, businesses and residents working collectively.

The objective is to remain dedicated to delivering police services in partnership with our community to keep Toronto the best and safest place to be, although at times, it requires

assistance from Toronto City Council and the Province of Ontario, in order to mitigate the impacts of criminal activity impacting our communities. Even though Toronto Police Service report an overall decline in crime statistics, crimes involving handguns continue to escalate.

Firearm violence, in particular handgun violence, continues to represent a significant public health and safety threat to Torontonians. Families and communities throughout the City of Toronto have been witness to, and affected by, the dramatic increase in gun related violence and homicides involving guns this year. The escalation of gun violence and homicides involving guns in Toronto has become a crisis in Canada's largest city that requires immediate action.

Furthermore, gang violence is also a significant problem in our City. Our streets are too often witness to gang violence. Handguns were used more often in gang-related homicides than in any other type of homicide. Whether recruited into a criminal organization or killed as victims of gang violence, too many of our young people have their lives potentially destroyed by criminal gangs.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM19.41