



To: Licensing@agco.on.ca

Cc: Councillor Giambrone, Tony Ruprecht MPP Davenport
Queen Beaconsfield Residents Association

Subject: AGCO liquor licensing Applications at 1180 Queen West and 1166 Queen West and 1096 Queen West

July 7, 2008

Sirs/Madams,

Active 18, with approximately 400 members, is a community group that has been actively concerned with the development of the Queen West Triangle for the past 3 years. Our original mandate was to monitor new developments in the neighbourhood and work closely with the City of Toronto (Councillors, Urban Planning, Legal) and developers to affect design improvements and neighbourhood benefits.

Many of our members are residents of this existing neighbourhood and have registered concerns with us over the concentration and pressure of new bars in a short 4 block area.

We are writing to you on behalf of the neighbourhood and our neighbours and ask that a more extensive planning vision for the area be thought through. Perhaps this involves a Secondary Plan for the neighbourhood, perhaps it involves a moratorium on new bars (including licensed back patios) for this existing stable neighbourhood. It does require thinking about how this area can grow in a mindful manner for both businesses and local residents.

Although we agree with intensification as an urban planning strategy – we emphasize this intensification needs, well – planning. As cities become more concentrated and we start living in tighter and tighter spaces – we all must share in the limited public spaces left over. It is incumbent upon us to work towards finding and developing ways of living together amicably in close urban quarters.

You will ask – what has the AGCO got to do with planning? It seems that the City of Toronto has little to no control over how areas grow, because of bodies like the Ontario Municipal Board. We find a potential equivalent in our AGCO. While the AGCO is intended as an arms' length body with no political agenda we find that it largely functions to uphold business interests and ignores the concerns of local residents – licensing bars in any neighbourhood is a planning issue and should be controlled locally with substantial and real input from the pre-existing communities.



One of Active18's concerns over the years has been to push for any family-sized housing in the new developments. We note that constructing an environment based only on bar culture is not conducive to creating or sustaining a mixed neighbourhood.

We see the concentration of the new bars as the creation of a new "Entertainment district". We have first-hand local history of the problems that arise from such concentration of bars and nightclubs – see Richmond/Adelaide Street. The difference here is that this new bar precinct is imposing itself directly into an existing stable residential neighbourhood.

We ask that you consider the effects and impact of issuing new liquor licensing in this neighbourhood closely, involve the community more meaningfully and slow down the proliferation of bars and patios in this residential neighbourhood.

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for Active 18 Community Association
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