



Attn: Hon. Doug Downey
Attorney General of Ontario
Ministry of the Attorney General
720 Bay St. 11th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

March 16, 2021

To The Hon. Doug Downey, Attorney General of Ontario,

Re: Objection to the Issuance of Liquor Licenses to 7-Eleven Chain

It has come to the attention to the City of Toronto that 7-Eleven has applied for liquor licenses for all 61 of its Ontario chains, including 14 within the City of Toronto.

The purpose of this letter today is to urge you to deny this application to ensure that we can best promote better public health, protect small businesses struggling through the pandemic, and reduce dangers on our roads.

Allowing 7-Eleven's customers to buy and consume beer and wine in its stores is a confusing proposition, especially as many of their locations are attached to gas bars. When one thinks of popping into the local 7-Eleven, they are not going in with the purpose of eating their taquitos, hot dogs, pizza, or wings in store. They are grabbing snacks to go.

Suggesting that this pattern of behaviour from their clientele will change with the introduction of alcohol consumption in store is an interesting, albeit unrealistic expectation unless they have other plans to change their business model, or act as a service for alcohol take-out, neither of which has been disclosed nor have the public seen.

7-Eleven is not a restaurant. It is a multinational chain using a policy created to support small business to undercut local retail and other personal services. If we allow 7-Eleven to squeeze through this loophole, it will be a lose-lose situation for our residents and mom and pop shops.

Allowing alcohol sales either to be consumed in store, or off-site, will hurt small business and restaurant owners struggling to get through the pandemic. It will also take much needed revenues from the province as sales from the LCBO will be lost to a private licensee. As you are aware, the province utilizes revenues gained from alcohol sales needs to fund our vital public services. Increasing availability of alcohol while foregoing revenue will further burden the public service.

I hope that the signatures of the Councillors below will help support you in your decision to protect small businesses, public safety, and provincial revenues by denying 7-Eleven in its application to the AGCO.

Should you have any questions, we are available to respond to you as required.

Thank you,

Councillor Mark Grimes
Ward 3, Etobicoke-Lakeshore

Councillor Mike Layton
Ward 11, University-Rosedale

Councillor Mike Colle
Ward 8, Eglinton-Lawrence

Councillor Frances Nunziata
Ward 5, York-South Weston

Councillor Gord Perks
Ward 4, Parkdale-High Park

Councillor Paul Ainslie
Ward 24, Scarborough-Guildwood

Deputy Mayor Ana Bailao
Ward 9, Davenport

Councillor Kristyn Wong Tam
Ward 13, Toronto Centre

Councillor Shelley Carroll
Ward 17, Don Valley North

Councillor Nick Mantas
Ward 22, Scarborough-Agincourt

Councillor Paula Fletcher
Ward 14, Toronto-Danforth