



Exhibition Place

Item No. 30

June 15, 2011

ACTION REQUIRED

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

From: Dianne Young, Chief Executive Officer

Subject: **Council Policy on the Display of Guns at Exhibitions / Events**

Summary:

This report recommends that the Board authorize the CEO of Exhibition Place to meet with the City Manager to discuss an interpretation of the City policy, “City-Based Measures to Address Gun Violence”, to allow Exhibition Place to host trade and consumer show events which include displays (only) of firearms as long as the exhibition/event is in compliance with all federal and provincial legislation applicable to events of this nature, including the Canadian Firearms Program.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Board request the CEO to meet with the City Manager to address issues relating to the interpretation of the City policy on “City-Based Measure to Address Gun Violence” and its detrimental effect on trade and consumer shows being held at Exhibition Place.

Financial Implications:

There are potential positive financial implications in the future if Exhibition Place is allowed to host events with displays of firearms.

Decision History:

At its meeting of June 23 and 24, 2008, City Council meeting adopted a motion with respect to recreational use of firearms on City property which stated:

City Council direct the City Manager to add “shooting ranges”, “gun clubs” and the promotion of firearms use, in general, to the list of unacceptable uses of City facilities for permit or lease, except for permits or leases for use by a police service of the City, provincial or federal governments or the Chief Firearms Officer.

Issue Background:

As a result of the Firearms Policy adopted by City Council on March 24, 2009, the Canadian National Sportsmen’s Shows, after 61 years at Exhibition Place, moved the Toronto Sportsmen’s Show from Exhibition Place to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, a provincially owned facility which permits such activities.

Comments:

The display of firearms in a safe manner in compliance with applicable regulations is a component of certain consumer and trade events. The previous interpretation of the existing City policy provided to Exhibition Place in 2009 limits the ability of Exhibition Place to market facility space to potential events which include that component and negatively affects Exhibition Place and its ability to market our venue. This report recommends that with the support of the Board, the CEO meet with the City Manager to once again consider the interpretation of the City policy as it affects trade and consumer show events.

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Submitted by:

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