

MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

Putting the Mimosa back in Brunch

Moved by: Councillor Paula Fletcher

Seconded by:

SUMMARY:

Weekend brunch is an important event in many restaurants in Toronto. It brings neighbours together and helps local businesses prosper.

Last November, the AGCO announced that effective December 2, 2018, off-site winery retail stores, Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) stores (including agency stores), The Beer Store, and authorized grocery stores (including wine boutiques) would now be permitted to sell liquor between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on Sundays, which are the permissible hours for all the other days of the week.

In explaining this change in policy, the AGCO noted the desirability of having a consistent policy that would provide greater flexibility for businesses and additional convenience for consumers.

Many restaurateurs have requested extending the hours during which they could serve alcohol starting at 9 am, particularly on weekend. This would make their hours consistent with alcohol retailers and similarly provide greater flexibility for businesses and additional convenience for consumers. They believe that being allowed to serve mimosas and other alcoholic beverages would significantly enhance the brunch experience for many Torontonians. On many occasions to facilitate people getting together to watch major sporting events, liquor serving hours have been extended to 9 am and even earlier without any ensuing problems.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That City Council requests the Attorney General of Ontario and the AGCO to change the permissible hours for the sale and service of alcohol for liquor sales licensed establishments to 9 am on Saturdays and Sundays.

Date: February 26, 2019