



Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Chairman Emmerson and York Regional Council
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 6Z1

Regarding: 2017 HOLIDAY SHOPPING BYLAW
REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF CORPORATE SERVICES-October 12, 2017
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Dear Chairman Emmerson and Members of York Regional Council,

I am writing on behalf of the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce which represents close to 850 businesses across Newmarket and the broader York Region.

As part of the Regional Municipality of York's consultations regarding exemptions under the Retail Business Holiday Act (RBHA), staff from the Region had reached out to the Newmarket Chamber to collect feedback regarding the Region's proposal to exempt itself from the RBHA.

In speaking on behalf of our members, the Newmarket Chamber had asked that any new bylaw concerning business retail hours on holidays be uniform across York Region to provide an equal playing field for the business community.

The report presented by Regional Staff regarding the RBHA and the new proposed Holiday Shopping Bylaw reflects what the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce had advocated for. Replacing the RBHA with a new "Holiday Shopping Bylaw" for all businesses across York Region will create uniformity in a process that prior to this has been criticized as arbitrary and confusing. More importantly, leaving the decision to businesses on whether to remain open or closed on all other eight remaining public holidays respects the diversity of the York Region business community.

The Newmarket Chamber of Commerce is in full support of staff's recommendations and asks that Regional Council adopt the recommendation made in the staff report to:

1. Repeal the RBHA and replace it with the Holiday Shopping Bylaw which will create a uniform approach to setting holiday hours and dates across York Region.
2. To enforce closures on Christmas Day only and leave the decision of remaining open or closed on the remaining holidays at the discretion of business owners.

We thank York Region Staff and Council for engaging the business community during the drafting of this report and for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Best Regards,

Debra Scott
President & CEO
Newmarket Chamber of Commerce