

# REQUEST FOR AMENDMENT TO CITY OF HAMILTON BY-LAW NO. 07-170

---

HELLO MR. MAYOR, COUNSELLORS, AND GUESTS.

MY NAME IS LYDIA GREENLY, AND I AM HERE TODAY TO ASK FOR A FORMAL  
AMENDMENT ON BY-LAW NO. 07-170 “ADULT SERVICES”

# WHY SHOULD WE AMEND THE BY-LAW?

---

- (National Post Article, Jan. 9/17) “The[ere is an] onslaught of millennials escaping the bidding wars and expensive mortgages of the GTA (Greater Toronto Area), and making the move to Hamilton...According to a 2016 study by the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, there are now more millennials than baby boomers living in Hamilton, with millennials making up 27.58% of the city’s population
- With the influx of Torontonians coming to Hamilton, we are experiencing a vibrant art scene (Art Crawl, Super Crawl), and a revitalization of the downtown core via new & trendy restaurants, pop-up events, etc.
- With this influx of Toronto culture, we are experiencing a revival of the Burlesque culture; in order to not be stagnant with the times, we need to amend archaic by-laws to accommodate the new forms of entertainment coming to the city



# WHAT IS BURLESQUE?

---

- Burlesque is the ART of the tease.
- The performers wear amazing glittery costumes (most times are hand-made or locally made)
- do creative skit / variety shows, sometimes involving local comedians and celebrities
- It is inclusive of all body types, allows for creative expression, and is empowering for both women & men (“boylesque”)
- can sometimes have very tongue-in-cheek skits involving politics and current events
- type of escapism that takes you back into a classier time
- music can range from using old jazz to more modern day hits
- emphasis on vintage glamour & pin-up style, with old timey hairstyles like bumper bangs & victory rolls
- Dancers use feather fans, long gloves, back seamed stockings, pasties, glittery accessories to express themselves



# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STRIPPERS & BURLESQUE DANCERS?

Stripping	Burlesque
Has some origins in burlesque, but ultimately does not have an origin relating to satire or humour.	Origins in literature, satire, and making fun of social rules and conventions through performance.
Intention is usually for money or physical performance itself.	Intention is usually for artistic purposes and the performance itself.
Exotic dancers work at strip clubs.	Burlesque dancers perform on stage at independent events and usually do not work at specific establishments.
Focus of stripping is on physical movement and the act of stripping itself.	Focus on burlesque is not just on physical act of burlesque dance itself, but on the humor of the broader performance. Source: <a href="http://theydiffer.com/difference-between-stripping-and-burlesque/">http://theydiffer.com/difference-between-stripping-and-burlesque/</a>
State of undress includes: exposed nipples & genitalia	State of undress includes: nipple pasties & g-string (no genitalia is exposed)
Remuneration: Lap dances (\$20/song), Table Dances (\$10/song), Kiss & Tip (on stage, \$5), sexual activities, etc.	Remuneration: joke in the industry is “strippers get paid”; most Burlesque dancers are either volunteer, or get a share from ticket sales, or get free drinks from the bar for the night.

# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STRIPPERS & BURLESQUE DANCERS? (PHOTOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION)

---

Stripper Example:(Carmen Electra)



Burlesque Example: Dita Von Teese



# WHAT SHOULD THE WORDING BE AMENDED TO?

---

- Current wording is:

“CITY OF HAMILTON BY-LAW NO. 07-170 “adult services” means services appealing to or designed to appeal to erotic or sexual appetites or inclinations and includes but is not limited to:

- (a) services of which a principal feature or characteristic is the nudity, or partial nudity of any person;
- (b) services in respect of which the word “nude”, “naked”, “topless”, “bottomless”, “sexy” or any other word or any picture, symbol or representation having like meaning or implication is used in any advertisement; or
- (c) activities, facilities, performances, dances, exhibitions, viewings and encounters in an adult services entertainment establishment;“

The wording used in this by-law is very vague and can be open to interpretation; based on the wording above, this can apply to beauty pageants, drag shows, belly dancing, sexy advertisements, etc.

By-Law officers have used this by-law in the past to persecute two dancers at Hess Village. (August 2016); Link to The Spec article: <http://www.thespec.com/news-story/6895048--this-is-not-stripping-burlesque-dancers-charged-at-hamilton-event-to-fight-bylaw/>

# HOW WILL THIS BE AFFECTING HAMILTON?

---

- If Hamilton does not amend the bylaws, it could seriously impact the art scene in Hamilton & it could criminally affect the lives of two burlesque artists who are fighting the by-law in court currently.
- If Hamilton amends the bylaw, it will bring more business to the Hamilton core, it would show that Hamilton is open to artistic expression, and it would allow the local creative community to thrive

# WHAT IS MY MOTIVATION TO ASK FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAW?

---

- I felt hypocritical on spending over \$300 on Dita Von Teese coming to Toronto, and not supporting local talent right under our nose
- I have been Hamiltonian my whole life; I used to be a burlesque dancer in Toronto because the scene was not here, but now it is.
- Burlesque has helped me through some dark times in regards to self confidence and body image; I am grateful for the art form
- I used to watch the two ladies who are facing Hamilton by-law charges; Ashley Keefer and Kayla Kunkel. I don't believe they should be punished for creative expression because of outdated, loosely-worded by-laws that can be applied by a by-law officer looking to meet their monthly "expectations".
- Since we are seeing Hamilton's last strip club "Hamilton Strip" closing its doors soon, it is clear that Hamilton is not interested in strip clubs; amending the bylaw will help with the replacement of future forms of entertainment entering the Hamilton arts scene.



# TO CONCLUDE:

---

I implore you to do your own research into Burlesque; Dita Von Teese is performing in Toronto on February 11, 2017. Her work is a true insight into what burlesque is like. However, there are also local shows that would be just as helpful to reiterate what burlesque truly is.

Mr. Mayor, Counsellors, and guests, I thank you very much for your time, and I hope my presentation was insightful & informative. Please let me know if you have any further questions after my presentation. Thank You.