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**From:** Jim Warren [mailto:vintner@shaw.ca]  
**Sent:** November 21, 2011 9:40 AM  
**To:** Robicheau, Vanessa  
**Subject:** Planning Committee Meeting Nov. 22, 2011

Dear Vanessa: I will be at the meeting on Tuesday but in case I cannot stay would you please bring forward my concerns about the changes to Municipal Consent Process with AGCO and SOPs. Thank you.

I am concerned, first of all, by the wording of the 'principal' that any new liquor licence applications in Hamilton as well as Special Occasion Permits be considered "NOT in the public's interest". I do not understand the possible rationale behind such language which reminds me of the Temperance movement of over 100 years ago and the ensuing period of Prohibition. I am a member of the public and I fail to see how granting a liquor licence or special occasion permit could possibly impact on my best interests. On the surface it seems to be creating an excuse for which the application of fees is then justified. The fee for the Liquor Licence application 'review' is also excessive. People wanting to start a restaurant in this city, a difficult undertaking at best, do not need another financial burden levied on them. Such a fee is not in the best interests of the applicant or the city of Hamilton. I also fail to understand why anyone in our municipal government would want to be concerned about a SOP. This matter is quite capably handled by the AGCO and has been for many years. Even if someone (and who would that be?) in our city wanted to review this application, it would take perhaps 5 or 10 minutes at most and the fees being considered are, again, simply excessive, if not extortionate. Normally a fee is charged for a significant service and in this case the merit of the service contemplated is highly questionable. Are these fees charged by other municipalities? Are any such fees in place now or are they all 'brand new'? Who determined the nature of the fees? Who will do the reviews? And while the City may gain additional revenue out of what is essentially a duplication of effort already performed primarily by the AGCO, what will be the real cost to everybody else? I think we all should be very wary of the implications of everything associated with the this particular issue and I hope some common sense will be applied in changing virtually everything about this so-called 'process'.

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