



NOTICE OF MOTION

I, Councillor PARSONS hereby provide Notice of Motion to
Chatham-Kent Council.

Motion Re: LICENSING CARD TOURNAMENTS

• THAT COUNCIL REQUEST THE PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT TO AMEND LOTTERY LICENSING
RULES TO ALLOW LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES TO
ISSUE LICENSES TO LOCAL COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATIONS TO CONDUCT CARD
TOURNAMENTS SUCH AS EUCHARÉ.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

FEB 4 / 2008

MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT
COMMUNITY & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
BUILDING, ENFORCEMENT & LICENSING SERVICES
INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Matthew Keech B.A. (Hons.)
Licensing Assistant, Building, Enforcement and Licensing Services

DATE: February 7, 2008

SUBJECT: Licensing of Card Tournaments

This report is for the information of Council.

BACKGROUND

At the February 4, 2008 Council meeting, Councillor Parsons put forward a Notice of Motion that *“Council request the provincial government to amend lottery licensing rules to allow local Municipalities to issue licenses to local community organizations to conduct card tournaments, such as euchre.”*

COMMENTS

Many organizations such as the Legions, The Moose, Knights of Columbus, and the Canadian Belgium Dutch Club, have historically held events such as Euchre Tournaments or Poker Tournaments to raise funds. At these events, participants pay an entry fee to play for a chance to win cash prizes. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission (AGCO) Enforcement Unit recently visited a number of Chatham-Kent halls regarding these events and advised that these types of events are not permissible. This issue is not specific to Chatham-Kent.

By definition, card tournaments such as euchre, are considered to be an illegal form of gaming as they are not a licensable lottery scheme. Section 206 and 207 of the Criminal Code of Canada establishes the regulatory framework within which certain games are permissible. Part VII of the Code prohibits gaming in general, while section 207 allows for a number of exceptions to the general prohibition. These exceptions establish the framework for the Province or municipalities to issue lottery licenses for only certain lottery schemes.

Through the Province of Ontario Order in Council 2688/93 municipalities may issue licenses for the following schemes only:

- Bingo events with prize boards up to \$5,500;
- Raffles with prizes of up to \$50,000;
- Break Open Ticket events;

- Bazaar gaming events; and
- Media Bingo

In order to allow for these types of card tournaments, regulatory changes would be required to permit municipalities to issue lottery licenses to community organizations.

In the interim, the Municipality of Chatham-Kent may assist organizations seeking alternative fundraising schemes, within the current regulatory framework, as well as offer fundraising suggestions for events not requiring a lottery licence (Attachment A).

CONSULTATION

The AGCO was consulted regarding the matter and advised that through its 2005 Modernization of Charitable Gaming initiative, it is willing to entertain requests to update the regulation of charitable gaming in Ontario. Council may forward a request in writing to the Licensing and Registration Division of the AGCO that Municipalities be permitted to issue licenses to charitable organizations to conduct card tournaments.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications at this time.

Prepared by:

Reviewed by:

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Building, Enforcement & Licensing Services

Paul Lacina, C.B.O.,
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Reviewed by:

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Evelyn Bish, B.A.
Acting General Manager
Community & Development Services

Gerry Wolting, B. Math, CA
Acting Chief Administrative Officer

c. Brenda Percy, Manager, Licensing Services

Attachment: Innovative Ways to Raise Funds