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9:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 1, 2023
Community Services Standing Committee

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Item 8.3 Response to CQ 19-2023 – Sandpoint Beach Concession – Ward 7
Clerk's Note: Borden Yewchyn, Owner, Big Daddy's Food Service submitting the ***attached*** letter dated October 25, 2023 as additional information

PRESENTATIONS:(10 minutes)

Item 6.1 2022 Annual Report of the 10 Year Housing & Homelessness Plan – Master Plan – City Wide (S 134/2023)
a) Kelly Goz, Manager, Homelessness & Housing Support and Michelle Proulx, Coordinator, Housing Administration & Development (PowerPoint)

DELEGATIONS: (5 minutes)

Item 8.3 Response to CQ 19-2023 – Sandpoint Beach Concession – Ward 7
a) Borden Yewchyn, Owner, Big Daddy's Food Service (in person)

Community Services Standing Committee
November 1, 2023
Item 8.3 - Written Submission

Date: October 25, 2023
To: Kelly Stuart, Council Services, City of Windsor
From: Borden Yewchyn - O/A Big Daddy's Hotdog Cart
Re: Item No. 8.3 - Council Report: S 130/2023 - Subject: Response to CQ 19-2023 - Sandpoint Beach Concession - Ward 7

Hello, my name is Borden Yewchyn.
Since 1990, I have owned and operated four licensed and insured hot dog carts in Windsor. Our first daytime location to begin operations was at the Southwest corner of Riverside Dr. E. and Florence Ave. Better known as "Sandpoint Beach." In the spring of 1991, my first hot dog cart (Pluto's Pronto Pups) was used to set up on the gravel portion of the "Ganatchio Trail."

A little Family background on me
In the 1940s, my grandmother owned and operated a lunch counter in Winnipeg, MB. My mother and father met while working at an A&W restaurant in Winnipeg. They married and were eventually allowed to own their own A&W franchise in the 1960s in Windsor, ON. They grew one franchise into three within the City of Windsor and seven between Windsor, Hamilton, and Toronto. They had a few other enterprises locally within the City of Windsor. The experiences I was exposed to while working in these businesses and the many cooperative relationships with staff, suppliers and customers along the journey prepared me to start my enterprise on a solid footing.

Past to Present Times
I recall competing with up to four other hot dog carts on the corner of Riverside Dr. E. and Florence Ave. before the Bi-Law was changed to include a Vending Zone Agreement attached to every location operated while on the Municipal right of way. Because of my seniority then, I was allowed to have first rights in striking an agreement to lease the space for operating my Class 2 Mobile vending cart (Hot Dog Cart). In the early days, before a vending zone agreement, I paid someone to stay overnight with my cart to reserve my location. Competitors would try and sell their wares for 50% off to eliminate me from my post. We survived this onslaught and stayed true to our business model of "best quality foods and service at a fair price." Our industry has sustained through many peaks and valleys because of sound business practices and building solid relationships.

I have successfully scaled my business to include three additional hot dog carts, and I have successfully maintained four active vending zones, complete with a contract agreement. Through the involvement of my immediate family and dozens of students and other fine people, I have been fortunate to build the "Big Daddy's" brand in diversifying my business portfolio to include being an operator of multiple municipal concession buildings located in the City of Windsor, the Town of LaSalle, and the City of Sarnia, and a food truck known as "Big Daddy's Chip Truck" since 1990. My team and I have successfully provided food services while operating food service booths at several significant special events in Windsor and Sarnia during the spring, summer, and fall.

Attempts at Re-Opening the Concession Stand at Sandpoint Beach
In the late 1990s and into the early 2000s, I attempted to strike a deal with Windsor's Parks & Recreation members on multiple occasions to open the mothballed concession stand at Sandpoint Beach. One of the conditions for me to be allowed to operate the concession space required me to relinquish my vending zone across the street. I felt uneasy about this as the future could change with my lease in mind, potentially leaving me without a place for my hot dog cart to operate nearby. I didn't pursue this opportunity again because of this. I have many thoughts on improving and enhancing what already exists within this Park's space. The same can be said for considerations towards potential investments in infrastructure inclusions. I am happy to share these.

Windsor Proud
Having been born and raised in the City of Windsor for most of my life, I feel pride in being part of this landscape for so long. I appreciate having the opportunity to serve the community here at Sandpoint Beach and in and outside other facilities within the City of Windsor for the past 33 years. We have invested tens of thousands of dollars in equipment to offer the best foods and beverages available to the user groups and visitors who buy from us. We have sponsored Minor Sports Associations that are part of the user groups in the facilities. We even offer in-kind food, beverages, and services to user volunteers of these user groups. We are genuinely proud to be part of the community!

My team and I are conscious of how our attitudes and appearance affect the people we contact. We strive to be good ambassadors for the City of Windsor while operating in and around these facilities. We do our best to remain open with regular hours of operation even with the expected closure of Lake St. Clair's water to swimmers at Sandpoint Beach. But we are still here, giving our best efforts to sustain.

Enhancing and Building a Better Park Space Together

I look forward to speaking in person on Wednesday, November 1st, 2023. And to share my thoughts on improving what infrastructures exist and how to create a better place for residents and visitors of our Beautiful City to enjoy our Jewel of property in Sandpoint Beach/Stop 26 Park.

Sincerely,
Borden.

Borden Yewchyn
Big Daddy's Food Service