

## Councillor hopes to reopen Boardwalk Cafe agreement

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A controversial lease agreement between the city and the owners of the Boardwalk Cafe could be up for reconsideration at Toronto Council next week.

The agreement, which council approved late in its May meeting, has been under fire from community residents and some councillors as too generous to Tuggs Inc., the family owned business that built the restaurant 21 years ago.

The new lease allows Tuggs to occupy the site for another two decades, paying about \$1 million less in rent than it did over the initial 20-year lease. The deal also extends vending rights for the restaurant located near Coxwell and Lake Shore Boulevard East across other parts of the Beach, and allows the company to seek and lease sponsorship agreements. It also gives Tuggs the right to sell souvenirs at the parklands and to sell alcoholic beverages in Woodbine Beach Park and Ashbridges Bay Park.

In 2007, council voted to ask staff to renegotiate the lease without putting out a request for proposals.

Last week, a group of residents submitted a petition and letter asking the lease be overturned and the city's auditor general be asked to study the award of the lease.

York South-Weston Councillor Frances Nunziata, who voted in favour of allowing the lease, is intending to ask council to re-open the matter next week. She will require a two-thirds vote in council to do so.

"This item was dealt with late at night - there were 17 members of council (who) weren't there - and I would hope that I would get the two-thirds," Nunziata said. "It's the issue of the process - the lack of process that was followed. We didn't take the advice from our solicitor (in 2007) to go off for an RFP (request for proposals). I think we made a mistake and we should look at it."

Should she fail to get the two-thirds vote, Nunziata said she'll move a motion asking the city's auditor general examine the deal.

Meanwhile, Etobicoke Centre Councillor Doug Holyday said he is hoping the city's integrity commissioner will look into the deal from an ethical standpoint, in particular the involvement of local Councillor Sandra Bussin.

Bussin wasn't in attendance during the vote last month. But she did advocate bypassing the RFP process in 2007.

Holyday said Bussin should never have involved herself in the process to begin with.

Bussin said she wouldn't comment on the matter and would absent herself from any vote that took place next week.

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