



BURLINGTON DOWNTOWN

JOINT STATEMENT:

**BURLINGTON DOWNTOWN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
BURLINGTON RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION**

Councillor Kearns,

On behalf of the Burlington Downtown Business Association (BDBA) and the Burlington Restaurant Association (BRA) we are reaching out to your office for action. The BDBA specifically is calling on you as the Council-appointed liaison to our 2023 Board of Directors.

Our two organizations read with interest the Council Information Package, dated February 17, 2023 which includes a report from the City's Supervisor of Festivals & Events outlining the draft 2023 event listings.

While we appreciate the report's consideration that the events listed therein do not constitute a "*complete list of final events*" we are dismayed to learn that one specific animation is being considered for conditional approval:

Burlington Food Truck Festival
July 21 to 23, 2023
Spencer Smith Park

This is an urgent concern for both the BDBA and BRA in that planning for this proposed event is presently underway. We are aware also the pending workshop with City Council to discuss special event strategy is not scheduled until April 2023.

Through your support, we are once again asking City Council to strongly reconsider approving this event at the Spencer Smith Park location this summer.

In March 2022 the BDBA and BRA sent a letter of complaint to the City's Special Events Department (Appendix A) outlining our concerns with the pending approval of the Burlington Food Truck Festival at Spencer Smith Park slated for the weekend of July 15-17.

This was followed by a joint delegation to Committee and City Council in April 2022.

Under the power of delegated authority, we had feared that this event would change in classification from "proposed" to "approved" without the benefit of consultation with the BDBA, the Burlington Restaurant Association or City Council.

The event was approved.

At its meeting of March 01, 2023 the BDBA Board of Directors considered this issue once again. In partnership with the BRA our joint position is that we **do not support the approval** of this event at Spencer Smith Park in summer 2023.

Our position is not a comment on the food truck industry itself.

The primary rationale for this position of our Boards has not changed since we first addressed this topic over twelve months ago. We are strong proponents of event equity across the City of Burlington, where each Ward can share in the offerings of third-party event organizers to highlight the unique attributes of their communities.

We are appealing to City Council, with your support, to relocate the Burlington Food Truck Festival to a suitable home outside of Spencer Smith Park for the 2023 season and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Dean, Executive Director

Burlington Downtown Business Association

Craig Kowalchuk, President

Burlington Restaurant Association

Copy of correspondence sent to:

Denise Beard & Chris Glenn

Thursday March 17, 2022

Hello Chris/Denise et. al.

I read with interest the attached list of proposed events (as of March 9th) for Ward 2 this year by third party event organizers.

The BDBA is dismayed that approval *might* be given to a proposed Burlington Food Truck Festival at Spencer Smith Park in mid-July.

The proposed, licensed event boasts over thirty food trucks over the course of the July 15-17th weekend.

On behalf of over fifty members of the hospitality industry in Burlington's downtown this is a disheartening development. Again!

The BDBA and B.R.A's position on food trucks in the core (including offerings by third party event organizers) is well documented. We were active participants in the development of the 2015 report that recommended changes to the Business License By-Law regulating food trucks. We jointly acknowledge that while private food trucks are permitted on public lands like the Park we are reminded that they are direct competition to the bricks and mortar restaurants Downtown.

It is also worth noting that the BDBA, its Team Burlington partners and the Burlington Economic Recovery Network has been working directly with City Council for over 24 months to enable a litany of support for our ailing local hospitality sector. This sector is projected to face a recovery period of 5 to 7 years.

We are not supportive of this proposed event, on a prime patio weekend in July, adjacent to our downtown business community.

As approvals for this proposed event rest with your department, on delegated authority, we are formally appealing.

The BDBA looks forward to discussing the cancellation of this event and/or its relocation to another area of the city where it can minimize impacts on our tax-paying restaurants.



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Ward 2 - 2022 Event Applications

Event Name	Event Dates	Location
Good Friday Road Race	2022/04/15	Spencer Smith Park / Waterfront Trail
Action on Climate Festival	2022/04/23	Central Park
Community Living Burlington's Annual Walk'n Roll	2022/05/14	Spencer Smith Park / Waterfront Trail
BTC Fight 15	2022/06/04	Central Arena
Moon in June	2022/06/04	On Road: Brant /Lakeshore / Maple Ave /
Live by the Lake (SOM)	2022/06/11	Spencer Smith Park
Sound of Music	2022/06/16-19	Spencer Smith Park
Fit in the Core	2022/06/26-09/11	Brock Park

Burlington's Canada Day Celebration	2022/07/01	Spencer Smith Park
Canada Day Race	2022/07/01	Waterfront Trail
Burlington Latin Nights	2022/07/09-08/27	Elgin Promenade
Downtown Burlington Car Show	2022/07/09	On Road: Brant Street - Lakeshore to Caroline
Confederation Marine Modellers Annual Hi Point Regatta	2022/07/10	Spencer Smith Park; Rotary Pool
Movies by the Lake	2022/07/12	Spencer Smith Park (gazebo area)
Burlington Food Truck Festival	2022/07/15-17	Spencer Smith Park (performance & lady of lake)
Halton Freedom Celebration Festival	2022/07/30	Spencer Smith Park
Butter Tart Festival Race	2022/08/13	Spencer Smith Park
Lakeside a la Carte	2022/08/14	Spencer Smith Park (performance area)
Burlington Catamaran Club Annual Regatta	2022/08/20-21	Burlington Beach
Canada's Largest Ribfest	2022/09/02-05	Spencer Smith Park (entire park)
Sunrise Yoga in the Park	2022/09/10	Spencer Smith Park
Angels N' Motion	2022/09/17	Beachway Park and Waterfront Trail
Terry Fox Marathon of Hope Run	2022/09/18	Spencer Smith Park & Pathway to beachway Park
A-Cat North American Championship	2022/09/19-23	Burlington Beach
Furry Friends 5K Charity Run/Walk	2022/10/01	Spencer Smith Park
CIBC Run for the Cure	2022/10/02	On Road: New Street / Guelph Line / Waterfront Trail / Seneca & Central Park
Burlington Festival of Lights	2022/11/25 - 2023/01/08	Spencer Smith Park
Burlington Santa Claus Parade	2022/12/04	On Road: Guelph Line / New St / Brant St

Burlington Holiday Market	2022/12/07-11	Civic Sq/Elgin Promenade/Lot 1/ Pearl St / Elizabeth St