

Whereas the City of Mississauga, as part of the Region of Peel has followed the province's COVID-19 mandates and lockdowns which has put significant restrictions on business operations, including the closure of small businesses, except for those that can provide online shopping, curbside pick-up, or delivery;

And whereas, daily COVID-19 numbers in Peel continue to increase;

And whereas, hospitalization numbers and the number of patients in the ICU, throughout Peel, continue to rise;

And whereas, the safest way to shop to stop the spread of COVID-19 is through infrequent trips to the store, online shopping, by curbside pick up, or through take-out;

And whereas, in an effort to keep the supply chain operating and ensure people can get the essentials they need like groceries, large retailers have been permitted to continue to operate;

And whereas, larger retailer outlets sell more than just essentials and are in direct competition with small retailers who are not allowed to open, or only with online shopping or curb side pick up, creating an uneven playing field for small businesses and local retailers;

And whereas large retail establishments typically exceed 10,000 square meters in size, thus permitting a capacity of 500-700 persons under the Provincial Regulations;

And whereas 500-700 persons in any indoor space creates the potential for overcrowding and lack of physical distancing in line ups, at points of payment and in store aisles;

And where as the opening of large retailers with compressed hours of operation increases crowding in exterior areas where patrons line up to await service;

Therefore be it resolved, that the provincial government be requested to review and revise various Covid-19 regulations in an effort to address the inequities created between small businesses required to close and businesses permitted to open and continue sales; to avoid unfair competitive advantage between businesses; and to provide consistency with continued effective health risk management in consultation with Public Health;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Starn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.