

立法會
Legislative Council

Ref : CB2/PS/3/04

LC Paper No. CB(2) 937/04-05

Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

Subcommittee to study the streamlining of food business licensing

Minutes of meeting
held on Tuesday, 1 February 2005 at 10:45 am
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

Members present : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP (Chairman)
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon Vincent FANG Kang, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH

Member attending : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Member absent : Hon WONG Yung-kan, JP

Clerk in attendance : Mrs Constance LI
Chief Council Secretary (2)5

Staff in attendance : Miss Lolita SHEK
Senior Council Secretary (2)7

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I. Election of Chairman

Mr Tommy CHEUNG was elected Chairman of the Subcommittee.

II. Way Forward

[LC Paper Nos. CB(2) 751/04-05 and CB(2)767/04-05(01)]

2. The Chairman referred members to the background brief prepared by the Legislative Council (LegCo) Secretariat [LC Paper No. CB(2) 751/04-05(01)] and invited members' views on the Subcommittee's way forward.

Scope of study

3. Referring to paragraph 2 of the background brief prepared by the LegCo Secretariat, the Chairman suggested that the Subcommittee should study all categories of food business licences, including liquor licences which were often granted or renewed together with a food business licence or certificate of compliance for club-houses.

4. Mr WONG Kwok-hing suggested that the Subcommittee should also include "private kitchens" in its scope of work.

5. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should study licensing for all types of food businesses as listed in paragraph 2 of the background brief, liquor licensing, and licensing for "private kitchens".

Meeting with the Administration

6. The Chairman proposed that the Subcommittee should hold its next meeting on Wednesday, 2 March 2005 at 8:30 am. The Administration should be invited to brief the Subcommittee on the present licensing procedures for all types of food businesses, and whether the government departments concerned had encountered any difficulties in processing the licence applications, or contemplating improvements to the procedures.

7. Referring to the report on the research study prepared by the Research and Library Services Division of the LegCo Secretariat in July 1999, Mr Andrew CHENG said that the flow charts showing the food business licensing procedures included in the report would be a useful reference for members in studying the various licensing procedures. He suggested that the flow charts should be updated for members' reference. The Chairman advised that the licensing procedures had not been revised since then. He requested that these flow charts be provided for members' easy reference.

8. Mr Andrew CHENG informed members that he and Ms Emily LAU were members of the Subgroup on Business Facilitation under the Economic and Employment Council. The Subgroup was reviewing the licensing for various businesses, including the food business, with a view to streamlining the licensing procedures in order to facilitate business development in Hong Kong. Mr CHENG suggested that the Subgroup should be invited to brief the Subcommittee on the

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progress of its work relating to the streamlining of food business licensing.

9. Ms Emily LAU supported Mr CHENG's proposal of inviting the Subgroup to the Subcommittee meeting so as to avoid duplication of efforts in the study on streamlining of food business licensing.

10. Members agreed that the Administration and the Subgroup on Business Facilitation should be invited to the next meeting of the Subcommittee on 2 March 2005. The Chairman suggested that representatives from all relevant government departments including the Buildings Department, Fire Services Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, Home Affairs Department and the Police, which were involved in vetting applications for food business licences and liquor licences, should be invited to the next meeting.

Meeting with deputations

11. The Chairman suggested that a meeting be held on Saturday, 5 March 2005 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon to receive views from the food business trade on the present licensing system for food businesses and liquor licenses, and suggestions for improvements to streamline the licensing procedures. The Administration would also be invited to join the discussion. Members agreed.

12. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:55 am.

Council Business Division 2
Legislative Council Secretariat
23 February 2005