

Councillor George Darouze
Osgoode Ward Office
8243 Victoria Street
Metcalf, ON K0A 2P0

Dec. 29, 2015

Hello Councillor George Darouze,

As one of the founding members of the Osgoode Ward Business Association I am making this request to you on behalf of the board and many of the small business owners in the Ottawa South area and wonder if you would be kind enough please to assist in resolving the issue.

It has to do with the OLG strikers at the Rideau Carleton Raceway. It appears that in their frustration to have the matter resolved they are extending their efforts a little more each day and this is having a negative effect on people travelling through the area (they are stopping cars on Albion Road) to attend a business (e.g., Albion Glass, MacEwen Gas, Falcon Ridge Golf, etc., to name a few) as well as into the area (I am informed there are 280 employees having a difficult time getting into work). As a result of the commotion business is being lost because customers, not liking the disruption to their travels, turn around and go back home rather than carry on to their destination thus businesses outside of the RCR are being affected. And then there are the patrons, especially the senior citizens who like to go to the race track once or twice weekly. For example one elderly lady enjoys the venue, but her daughter has now refused to drive her there because of the bedlam she has to fight and because she feels its not safe to drop her mother off under the present circumstances.

It appears that as desperation sets in the strikers are becoming a little more bold, almost offensive, which is creating a hindrance to the ongoing businesses that are in operation.

After receiving several complaints I personally made a trip there this week to find out what they were complaining about and I must say I was a little taken aback when the strikers would not let me in. They wanted me to sign a paper and when I declined they actually refused me entry.

On behalf of OWBA I would very much appreciate it if you could take whatever action is possible to come up with a solution that would allow continuity of the businesses so that they can operate in a safe and secure manner. Ideally it would be a solution that would support the small business owners without interfering with the strikers.

Thank you, and warmest regards,

Gino Milito
Osgoode Ward Business Association