

MOTION ON NOTICE

13. Celebrating Italian Culture: Welcome Signage in Little Italy and a Pilot Program for an Italian Piazza in Vancouver

Submitted by: Councillor De Genova

WHEREAS

1. In Canada, provinces including Quebec, allow for the public to purchase beer and wine at local grocery stores and enjoy alcohol when picnicking in public spaces;
2. The Province of B.C. website, Liquor & Cannabis Law and Policy Section, lists a Frequently Asked Question Section, including the questions “Can I drink in public?” The answer states “You cannot drink liquor in a public place unless that public place is licensed or designated by a municipality or regional district as a place where liquor can be consumed;”
3. Canadian Provinces including Alberta and Quebec permit alcohol consumption when accompanied by picnicking in public places;
4. In the United States of America, cities that permit liquor to be consumed in public, by individuals of legal drinking age include: Georgia, Louisiana, Oregon and Texas, Memphis in Tennessee, Butte in Montana and Las Vegas in Nevada;
5. Cities in countries including New Zealand, Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Japan and Belgium allow public drinking and in squares, on main streets and in designated areas;
6. In 2016, Council approved a motion to officially recognize eight blocks of commercial drive as Little Italy (the four blocks north and the four blocks south of 1st Avenue, on Commercial Drive);
7. Italian immigrants and Italian-Canadians have made great contributions to Vancouver, and this was formally acknowledged by the City of Vancouver in 2018, when Italian Heritage Month became officially included in the list of City of Vancouver official celebrations and observances;
8. The City of Vancouver has supported, and continues to explore pilot patios, unique public spaces that encourage community gatherings and increasing accessibility to city space.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to work with the Italian community to explore the creation of an age-friendly “Piazza” pilot space in Vancouver, that includes local artisans, restaurateurs, proprietors and vendors and would allow for community-led events in a designated outdoor space that also would include the responsible enjoyment beer, wine and “appertivos”

along with food, and if possible, to be implemented before the end of June 2020.

- B. THAT Council direct staff to engage and invite stakeholders to participate in the process including, but not limited to: the Italian Cultural Centre-Community Relations Committee, Italian Day Festival Committee, Commercial Drive Business Society, Italian Chamber of Commerce in Canada WEST, Vancouver Public Space Network, Viva Vancouver and the Vancouver Police Department.
- C. THAT Council affirm support for artistic signage that is in character with Italian heritage, and if possible similar to an arch, marking the north, south and possibly centre (East 1st Avenue) boundaries of Little Italy in Vancouver;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to work with the Italian Cultural Centre "il Centro", The Commercial Drive Business Society and the Italian Day Festival Committee to explore funding options.

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