

MOTION

2. Flexible, Innovative and Expedited Patio Permitting

At the Council meeting on May 12, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on May 13, 2020, in order to hear from speakers.

Submitted by: Councillor Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted significant negative economic impacts with many Vancouver businesses including restaurants, tourism businesses, hotels, and personal-care services such as hair stylists, nail salons and dentists, forced to close or severely limit operations due to health and physical distancing restrictions;
2. Restaurants have been one of the most immediate and hardest hit sectors, and small business operators are struggling to survive with many limited to takeout offerings and attempting to make it through the pandemic;
3. Small businesses like restaurants are vital to the fabric and character of Vancouver neighbourhoods and support complete communities;
4. Small businesses like restaurants are key contributors to Vancouver's economic health generating jobs and tax revenue;
5. The City has a key role to play in supporting economic recovery. Speed flexibility and nimbleness in permitting and business support services will be instrumental to helping businesses get back up and running and survive;
6. Patio season is a critical revenue generator for restaurants and is upon us now. Expedited patio permitting must be turnkey when restaurants are able to reopen to table type service;
7. Some work has begun with staff offering online renewals for patio permits during the COVID-19 crisis;
8. An outcome of COVID will likely be the need for some continued physical distancing processes in businesses. Customers will also be cautious about being in close quarters to others;
9. Patios provide the health benefit of fresh air and sunlight;
10. There is opportunity to be innovative and redefine patios such as pop-up standing patios for quick service type offerings, expanded size to enable physical distancing, or utilization of curb lane, street, sidewalk and laneway space for extensions where it doesn't impede accessibility, transit, emergency vehicles or traffic;
11. Currently, patio permitting can require a combination of licensing, development permits and permits to enable operations;

12. Currently, craft breweries are not permitted to have patio operations in Vancouver;
13. The City of Vancouver has initiated a street reallocation response that focuses on Room to Queue, Room to Load, and Room to Move during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is opportunity to add Room to Eat to this work, and to re-examine public space use as part of a new post-pandemic world; and
14. Many cities are re-examining the use of public space now to achieve healthier communities. A COVID legacy can be a more vibrant and people focused public realm.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to prepare options and report back as soon as possible to support more flexible patio types (including consideration for pre-detailed designs and formats), utilization of curb lane, street, sidewalk and laneway space for extensions, expedited permitting including applications and renewals, as well as the number of patios allowed, in order to support the economic recovery and safe operations of Vancouver's restaurant sector in the context of COVID-19.
- B. THAT such options identify any needed amendments to Street Vending By-law No. 10868 and the Street and Traffic By-law No. 2849 to enable greater flexibility.
- C. THAT breweries that currently hold a lounge endorsement within the City of Vancouver may apply for patio endorsements, aligning with the recommendations and guidelines set out by the Provincial government, and that brewery patio applications will be considered as long as the total patron load including the new patio remains below the current City patron limit for ancillary brewery lounges. Considerations for brewery lounge patios should adhere to similar licensing and permitting fees as restaurants and cafes.
- D. THAT such options be considered for the duration of the COVID-19 response and recovery, recognizing that innovation will provide for valuable learning towards operations and adaptation in a new, post-COVID world;

FURTHER THAT staff report back on possible opportunities to create commons-style eating spaces with additional chairs, benches or tables on public plazas or public spaces, that can enable outdoor eating areas to support different takeout or quick service restaurants and cafes in various neighbourhoods and commercial districts, with consultation with impacted business improvement associations as may be appropriate (recognizing previous Council motions such as Celebrating Italian Culture: Welcome Signage in Little Italy and a Pilot Program for an Italian Piazza in Vancouver as it relates to Commercial Drive).

- E. THAT this motion be shared with the Council Pandemic Response and Recovery Working Group for the purpose of enabling them to seek or share further information from the restaurant sector as may be beneficial to and aid this work.