

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

B.3

3. Designating Public Space for Responsible Consumption of Alcohol

Co-Submitted by: Councillor Fry and Councillor Wiebe

WHEREAS

1. COVID-19 public health response and mandated physical distancing has limited the ability for Vancouverites to socialize with friends and family in their homes or licensed public establishments;
2. In 2019, Vancouver's elected Park Board unanimously approved "Alcohol Consumption at Vancouver Parks and Beaches" a pilot to look at responsible enjoyment of alcoholic beverages in designated areas of select parks/beaches;
3. On March 21, 2020, the Attorney General of British Columbia announced Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch Policy Directive No: 20-05, permitting sale and delivery of packaged liquor for off-site consumption with the purchase of a meal;¹
4. On May 13, 2020, Council-approved motion "Flexible, Innovative and Expedited Patio Permitting", which supports the rapid deployment of patio spaces for the use by business patrons; but patios legally and practically cannot be available or accessible to non-patrons, equitably distributed throughout the city, or available to all food and drink serving businesses;
5. On May 13, 2020, City of Vancouver's Engineering Services and Finance staff presented "Mobility + Public Life Response", which offered recommendations to reanimate and rebuild public life, considering public spaces for flexible uses like eating and gathering as well as temporary closures of side streets to create plazas;
6. Section 73 subsections (2) and (3) of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* permit Council to pass a by-law that allows liquor consumption during specific hours and in specific public places, or parts of them, that are under the jurisdiction of the City;² and
7. Section 73 subsection (4) of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* states that without limiting subsection (2), regulations under that subsection may provide that a by-law referred to in that subsection may not designate a specified public place, or a specified public place for a specified period of time.

¹ https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/employment-business-and-economic-development/business-management/liquor-regulation-licensing/policy-directives/20-05_sale_and_delivery_of_packaged_liquor_from_service_area_for_off-site_consumption.pdf

² <http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/15019#section73>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to prepare a by-law pursuant to Section 73 subsections (2), (3) and (4) of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, to allow for liquor consumption in select public places that are under jurisdiction of the City, and enables the creation of temporary and time limited spaces for responsible consumption of alcohol in public.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to consult with the Vancouver Police Department, Engineering Services and Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, staff as well as local Business Improvement Associations and businesses (as applicable), to recommend appropriate locations and hours for consumption of alcohol in specified public places. Recommendations should consider, but not be limited to:
 - a. Public safety;
 - b. Crime prevention through environmental design;
 - c. Access to restroom facilities;
 - d. Proximity to neighbours; and
 - e. Litter receptacles.
- C. THAT Council direct staff to prepare appropriate process, signage and messaging that conveys:
 - a. Hours of use;
 - b. Conditions of use;
 - c. Location boundaries;
 - d. Rules and recommendations for the responsible consumption of alcohol;
 - e. Respect for neighbours and area;
 - f. Location of nearest restroom facilities; and
 - g. Complaint mechanism.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to report back as soon as possible with fast-tracked priority actions and locations as pilot projects;

FURTHER THAT in the context of improving summer weather and relaxing provincial health orders, these pilots inform a larger report back and future considerations for this program during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

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