



REPORT

Report Date: May 25, 2020
Contact: Margaret Wittgens
Contact No.: 604.673.8227
RTS No.: 13882
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: May 27, 2020
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TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Lon LaClaire, General Manager Engineering Services
SUBJECT: Fees for Temporary Patios During COVID-19 Recovery

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve in principle by-law amendments to temporarily waive all permit and application fees associated with temporary expansion of patio spaces until October 31, 2020;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services bring forward for enactment such by-law amendments as are necessary to implement the above Recommendation.

REPORT SUMMARY

This report is a partial response to the May 12, 2020 Motion of Council regarding Flexible, Innovative and Expedited Patio Permitting.

On May 12, 2020 Council approved a motion directing staff to advance Flexible, Innovative and Expedited Patio Permitting to support businesses during the recovery period of COVID-19. Staff has been working to develop plans for an initial launch on June 1, 2020 of this expedited process. In order to ensure that the expedited process remains low barrier and flexible, staff are recommending that application and permit fees associated with expedited temporary patios be waived.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Council has the authority to allow the private use of street space pursuant to Section 289A of the *Vancouver Charter*. Council has exercised that authority through the *Street Vending By-law* and in particular Section 5 and Schedule A: Fees to allow for patios on public spaces.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

To address the May 12, 2020 Council motion regarding Flexible, Innovative and Expedited Patio Permitting staff has developed a process for temporary patios. The process ensures that those patio applications that meet specified criteria may be processed in an expedited fashion.

A typical permit fee for a patio in public street right of way would range from about \$450 for a small patio to about \$2800 for a large patio varying according to size and duration. Table 1 outlines typical costs for patios on street right of way.

Patio type	Application Fee	Cost/area	Average Cost
Small Patio (removable tables and chairs)	\$55.20	\$382.26 (min fee) \$127.42 per additional table over 3	\$462
Large Patio and Curbside Patio	\$220.82	\$62.54 outside downtown (per sq m) \$88.25 downtown (per sq m)	\$2765

The expedited temporary patio process will be in place effective June 1, 2020 through October 31, 2020. The June 1 launch of this expedited process will focus on patios on public space in the curb lane, in front of the business or flanking the business, with future expansion of the expedited patio program to other contexts such as private property.

Recommendation

Staff recommend waiving all permit and application fees associated with the expedited temporary expansion of patio spaces until October 31, 2020.

Financial

The May 12 Motion approved in principle the prioritization of additional staff and budget resources to support the allocation of flexible, innovated and expedited patio space, and directed staff to seek out cost recovery opportunities where possible.

There are costs associated with staff time to process additional patio applications as well as signage. Staff will monitor and minimize these costs which can be managed within existing operation budgets; cost recovery of these components is therefore not recommended.

There is limited information regarding how many businesses will implement temporary patios under the expedited program and whether those same businesses would have implemented a

patio if fees were in place. As a result, it is difficult to estimate the lost revenue opportunity to the City. As mentioned above the average cost for “Permanent” Patio Permits can range from \$462 for small patios to \$2765 for large curbside patios.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommend waiving all permit and application fees associated with the expedited temporary expansion of patio spaces until October 31, 2020 and will bring back necessary bylaw amendments to implement this recommendation.

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