

COUNCIL MEMBERS' MOTION

B.8

8. Exploring a Pilot for Beverages in Public Spaces in Vancouver

Co-Submitted by: Councillor De Genova and Councillor Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS

1. June 2, 2020, Councillor Fry and Councillor Wiebe submitted a motion entitled “Designating Public Space for Responsible Consumption of Alcohol”, that was not approved by Council.
2. May 27, 2020, Dr. Patricia Daly, Chief Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health, addressed Council and expressed concern for enacting by-laws and encouraging public consumption of alcohol for several reasons including mental health and the “significant binge-drinking culture” in British Columbia, that has the highest per capita alcohol consumption rate in Canada. Dr. Daly also cited evidence that 25% of people in Canada were drinking more alcohol because of the pandemic. Dr. Daly also stated “*The last thing we want to do as we begin the delicate balance of recovery within our hospitals — and while we will still be seeing patients with suspected COVID-19 — is to implement municipal policies that are going to increase preventable visits to our emergency department;*”; [\[i\] \[email17.godaddy.com\]](mailto:email17.godaddy.com)
3. May 27, 2020, Deputy Chief Howard Chow, addressed Council and cited public safety concerns and considerations the Vancouver Police Department had with public consumption of alcohol in public spaces. Using the example of the Vancouver Police Department’s Beach Patrol, he confirmed to Council that eight officers had issued 6,000 liquor warnings and 401 tickets over three months last year at Vancouver beaches on the West Side of Vancouver. He recalled “almost all of our calls that are relative to this are complaint driven. It’s because people are fed up with a group that’s getting rowdy that have been drinking that’s causing problems.” [\[ii\] \[email17.godaddy.com\]](mailto:email17.godaddy.com)
4. May 13, 2020, Councillor Kirby-Yung brought forward a motion entitled “Flexible, Innovative and Expedited Patio Permitting”, in response to economic recovery, supporting restaurants and accommodating provincial physical distancing recommendations. This motion was supported by Council and staff responded by bringing recommendations back to Council for the Temporary Expedited Patio Pilot Program (TEPP). A number of Vancouver restaurants are participating in this program. Councillor Kirby-Yung’s motion also called for:

FURTHER THAT staff report back on possible opportunities to create commonsstyle 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).

5. June 26, 2019, Council unanimously approved the following recommendation in a motion submitted by Councillor De Genova entitled “Celebrating Italian Culture: Welcome Signage in Little Italy and a Pilot Program for an Italian Piazza in Vancouver;”
 - 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.*
6. Implementing a pilot program with designated space for public consumption of alcohol, served by approved businesses with “Serving It Right” certification allows for staff to provide Council with information before any permanent policy changes are considered for the summer months in 2021.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to explore and develop a strategy for public consumption of alcohol, in designated public spaces and places in the City of Vancouver, in collaboration and with input from Vancouver Coastal Health and the Vancouver Police Department, and to report back to Council with recommendations no later than April 2021;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to consider the possibility of permitting individuals to bring and serve their own liquor for personal consumption as part of strategy.

- B. THAT alongside and in addition, the Italian-themed piazza that Council has directed staff to implement, Council also direct staff to prioritize and expedite a pilot program that respects all provincial recommendations for physical distancing, and identify one or more locations for public consumption of alcohol in designated public places including consideration of areas in and around existing dining spaces in the outdoor eating areas directed in the Temporary Expedited Patio Pilot Program (TEPP);

FURTHER THAT all alcohol be purchased from and served by licensed establishments;

FURTHER THAT staff consult with the Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Coastal Health, prior to returning to Council with a plan for implementation and final recommendations by July 8, 2020;

AND FURTHER THAT the pilot begin no later than August 2020 and conclude October 31st, in parallel with the timeline for the Temporary Expedited Patio Program (TEPP).

- C. THAT Council direct staff to invite Vancouver Coastal Health and the Vancouver Police Department to present alongside staff and/or answer questions of Council at the meeting of Council when staff reports back for recommendations for this pilot, on or before July 8th, 2020.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to include in their report back to Council on this pilot program:
 - o a timeline for implementation;
 - o consideration for affordability and accessibility to all, including access to designated spaces without requiring the purchase of food or alcohol;
 - o possible partnerships with small businesses, restaurants, business, social enterprises, including non-profits, social enterprises and businesses that support individuals that face barriers to employment;
 - o consideration for liquor primaries and other businesses in the Granville Entertainment District to participate;
 - o public safety, including but not limited to room to queue and public safety;
 - o any budgetary impacts or additional operational resources require; and
 - o any impacts on the health care system.

* * * * *