

MOTION

5. **Extending Pop-Up Patios This Fall and Winter and Making Pop-Up Patios a Part of Every Summer in Vancouver**

At the Council meeting on September 15, 2020, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on September 16, 2020, in order to hear from speakers.

Submitted by: Councillor Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS

1. At the Standing Committee of Council on Finance and City Services on May 13, 2020, Council unanimously approved the motion Flexible, Innovative and Expedited Patio Permitting;
2. The motion was a direct recognition of the devastating economic impact the Covid-19 pandemic has inflicted on the City's restaurant sector (due to closure periods, physical distancing requirements and the costs of additional cleaning and safety protocols) noting that many small business operators were struggling to survive;
3. Through the Temporary Expedited Patio Program that launched June 1 in response to the motion, 361 permits had been issued as of August 14th, including 291 patios on public space and 70 patios on privately owned space. Eight permits were also issued for craft brewery patios, a first in Vancouver as patios for breweries with a lounge endorsement had never been allowed. And finally, nine pop-up plazas were created in partnership with local businesses and Business Improvement Associations in neighbourhoods across the City, giving people places to be, to gather, to rest and room to eat;
4. Pop-up patios have supported our local economy, enhanced our social fabric and the vitality of placemaking in our City. The Temporary Expedited Patio Program that included free permits for local businesses is slated to conclude October 31, 2020;
5. The Covid-19 pandemic response remains in full force. Many restaurants will be under further duress in the coming months as cooler weather arrives. A late August survey from Restaurants Canada and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce advised that over half of restaurants could face bankruptcy in the next 90 days, and that closure of patios would be a blow reducing needed capacity. Employment in the sector is at record lows, and would be further decimated by closures;
6. Also, with Fall and Winter upon us, many residents are facing increased social isolation without the ability to be outdoors as much. Many residents are still reluctant to dine indoors at restaurants but many are expressing interest in an extended patio season;

7. The City has prioritized winter patio initiatives before flexing its policies in response to circumstances such as the 2010 Olympic Winter Games when semi-enclosed patios were allowed;
8. The responsiveness demonstrated by the City of Vancouver to adapt its policies so quickly to support small business has been a lifeline for the sector and demonstrated what a positive economic and social impact the City can have when regulations and permitting are streamlined and expedited, and we are more creative with public space;
9. A full economic recovery from Covid-19 is expected to take some time, likely years, with no firm date for a vaccine in sight;
10. Summer is a busy season for many Vancouver restaurants. In 'normal' years or pre-Covid times, there has been a shortage of patio space where people can enjoy healthy and fun outdoor dining; and
11. Public response has been incredibly positive with many people commenting on the vibrancy pop-up patios have brought to neighbourhoods by prioritizing people and lifestyle in Vancouver's public space. Not reverting to the 'old normal' but instead building on the innovation can be a positive legacy for Vancouver in the move towards a more vibrant and people-focused City and to operating in a new, post-COVID world.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council direct staff to extend the Temporary Expedited Patio Program (TEPP), that included free permits for local businesses, beyond October 31, 2020, into this coming Fall and Winter.
- B. THAT extension of the Temporary Expedited Patio Program (TEPP) into this Fall and Winter include allowance for the provision of heat sources (with priority for electric but acceptance of propane options for this Covid response period) as well as use of roof shelters or awnings or secured tents for weather protection (in consultation with Vancouver Fire & Rescue Services and consideration of accepting sign-off of structures by an independent engineer or architect) that still provide for free airflow to support healthy dining.
- C. THAT staff share the economic recovery, public and mental health imperative to continue the Temporary Expedited Patio Program (TEPP) into this coming Fall and Winter with the Province of BC, and request a continuation of the blanket extension given by the Province to the TEPP for expanded outdoor liquor service within current operators' existing allowable liquor seat allocations.
- D. THAT Council direct staff to investigate the inclusion of roof shelters or awnings or secured tents for weather protection on the pop-up plazas that were launched in neighbourhoods across the City, and have provided

valued, free commons-style gathering and eating spaces, in order to enable them to continue to be enjoyed by the public this coming Fall and Winter.

- E. THAT Council direct staff to report back on the results and learnings from the summer's Temporary Expedited Patio Program by the end of 2020 (including but not limited to info such as number and type of permits issued, response, challenges, the use of public and private space, accessibility considerations, etc.) as well as options for continuing a Pop-Up Summer Seasonal Patio Program annually.
- F. THAT Council direct staff to report back on allowing patios for breweries that currently hold a lounge endorsement within the City of Vancouver on an ongoing basis, including any considerations for aligning with Provincial guidelines in order to streamline the different permit processes required by the City and the Province.
- G. THAT Council direct staff to report back on continuing with the creation and expansion of pop-up plazas in more neighbourhoods across the City that provide free, commons-style gathering and eating spaces (ensuring they are accessible to those who use wheelchairs, mobility scooters and other mobility devices and in consultation with Business Improvement Associations) as part of Vancouver's rethink of public space use in a new post-pandemic world.
- H. THAT staff consult with the Province of BC to share the positive response to the Temporary Expedited Patio Program, and to explore the most effective way for the City of Vancouver to work with the Province for expedite provincial approvals for expanded outdoor liquor service within current operators' existing allowable liquor seat allocations to enable an ongoing, annual Pop-Up Summer Seasonal Patio Program in continued support of placemaking, vibrant neighbourhoods and small business.

* * * * *