



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: November 29, 2023
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Meeting Date: December 13, 2023
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Standing Committee on City Finance and Services
FROM: General Manager of Development, Buildings and Licensing
SUBJECT: Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements

Recommendations

- A. THAT Council repeal the *Liquor License Capacity and Location Policy and Guidelines* and adopt the *Policy on Establishments with Provincial Liquor Primary Licences* as described in this report and shown in Appendix A.
- B. THAT Council remove the moratorium on new Liquor Establishments and seat expansions at existing establishments, in the Granville Entertainment District.
- C. THAT Council approve amendments to the Licence By-law to update the definition of Liquor Establishment Class 2 to change the person capacity generally as shown in Appendix B;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B.

- D. THAT Council approve amendments to the Licence By-law to expand the definition of Liquor Establishment Class 8 to enable more types of non-traditional liquor serving businesses to apply for provincial liquor licences as permitted under Provincial regulation, generally as shown in Appendix B;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B.

- E. THAT Council approve amendments to the Licence By-law to the definition of Limited Service Food Establishment to enable these businesses to apply for a provincial non-traditional liquor licence generally as shown in Appendix B;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B.

- F. THAT Council approve amendments to the Licence By-law to delegate authority to the Chief Licence Inspector to provide recommendations to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch on new Liquor Primary applications as a way to decrease the City's processing time on Liquor Primary applications generally as shown in Appendix B;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix B.

- G. THAT Council approve amendments to Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law to align operating hours for Standard and Extended Hours Liquor Establishments located on the 1000 to 1300 blocks of Granville Street with hours in the Downtown Regulation Area Primarily Commercial Area as described in this report and generally as shown in Appendix C;

FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment an amendment to the Licence By-law generally in accordance with Appendix C.

- H. THAT Council approve a policy to support evening hours for Dual Liquor Primary licences to begin operation at 9:00 pm, aligned with hours allowed under provincial liquor licensing regulations.
- I. THAT, subject to approval of recommendation A, Council approve amendments to the Cabaret and Restaurant Guidelines to align them with the proposed Policy on Establishments with Provincial Liquor Primary Licences as shown in Appendix D.

Purpose and Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval on recommendations to update the City's regulatory framework for Liquor Establishment Class 1 – 6 business licences. Specifically to: rescind the *Liquor License Capacity and Location Policy and Guidelines* (the "Distancing Policy"); and to remove the moratoria on new Liquor Establishments and seat expansions, in the Granville Entertainment District (GED). Staff propose to set one location requirement to retain livability in residential neighbourhoods: Liquor Establishment Class 2, with a new maximum person capacity set at 200, should be the largest size establishment to locate directly next to residential districts.

The proposed changes remove regulatory barriers and create opportunities for new and existing businesses. In the GED, businesses can participate in and activate the transition to a vibrant, welcoming, day and nighttime entertainment destination.

Creating opportunities for new Liquor Establishments can risk public safety and public health harms. All applications for Liquor Establishment business licences (provincial Liquor Primary licences) are considered case by case with inter-departmental review, and review by the Vancouver Police Department. Provincial regulations require public notification. Staff propose to monitor impacts of this change in policy, particularly in the GED.

Additional proposals for Council approval include delegation of Council authority to the Chief Licence Inspector to make recommendations to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) on applications for new Liquor Primary licences; and a proposal to support Liquor Primary licences at businesses like spas, barbershops and retail stores.

In the Downtown Eastside (DTES) the current *Liquor Policy for the Downtown Eastside* includes a moratorium on additional Liquor Establishments, and on seat expansions at existing establishments.¹ Consultation with area stakeholders is underway to review options for possible updates to this policy. Staff will bring forward recommendations specific to the DTES in Q1 2024.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

- [Liquor License Policy: Liquor Primary Size, Capacity, and Location \(July 14, 2005\)](#). Council approved the policy on Liquor Establishment capacity, size and distance requirements.
- [Liquor Policy Review - Recommended Actions \(June 14, 2017\)](#) Council approved recommendations to extend moratoria in Granville Entertainment District and Downtown Eastside; retain Liquor Distancing Requirements; and support Liquor Primary licences at non-traditional businesses for arts and culture based retail and community associations.
- [Distancing Review & Exceptions for Dual Licenses \(July 5, 2022\)](#) Council directed staff to suspend Distancing Requirements for Liquor Establishments Downtown, and to suspend the GED and DTES moratoria for Class 1 and 2 Liquor Establishments, for restaurants seeking to operate in the evenings under Liquor Primary licences. Council also directed staff to report on options and recommendations to update and modernize the regulatory framework for liquor primary establishments.

City Manager's Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

The City regulates where pubs and nightclubs can locate in the Zoning and Development By-law and the *Liquor License Capacity and Location Policy and Guidelines* known as the Distancing Policy. The Zoning and Development By-law identifies areas of the city where Neighbourhood Public House (pubs) and Cabaret (nightclubs) are permitted uses (Appendix E). The Distancing Policy regulates how close establishments of the same size can be to one another, and what size establishments can locate near residential areas (Appendix F). The size of establishments is regulated in the City's Licence By-law. Pubs and nightclubs are licenced as Liquor Establishment Class 1 – 6 based on their occupant capacity. Class 1 is the smallest at a maximum capacity of 65 persons and Class 6 is the largest at greater than 950 persons.

The Policy's requirements for distance between establishments of the same size were to encourage variety and to set densities appropriate to neighbourhoods ([2005](#)). Clusters of small, medium and large establishments rather than clusters of same size venues; greater density of establishments Downtown than Non-Downtown; only small establishments next to residential

¹ The exception is Restaurants with person capacity of up to 150. They may operate evening hours Liquor Establishments, per Council approval June 15, 2022.

areas. The requirements create a de facto limit on the total number of establishments that can find Policy compliant locations. The limit serves a public health goal of moderating access to liquor. At the same time, it creates challenges for existing businesses seeking to expand, and for prospective businesses seeking suitable locations.

The Distancing Policy relies on a set of boundaries created in 2005 and based broadly on Zoning district schedules and Area Plans of the day. The parameters of these boundaries and policy compliance of locations are challenging for the public to interpret.

Following Council direction, staff reviewed the Distancing Policy, carried out research (Appendix G), and met with key stakeholders to hear feedback on options for updates (Appendix H).

Staff consulted on additional components of the regulatory framework for Liquor Establishments including options to remove the moratoria on new Liquor Establishments and seat expansions in the GED; expanding support for non-traditional liquor serving businesses; and process improvements to reduce application review times. Many of these items align with interests shared by members of the [Hospitality Sector Working Group](#)

The number and size of Liquor Establishments in the City can affect public health and public safety. Staff consulted with Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) on effects City liquor policy changes can have. Vancouver Coastal Health strongly opposes enabling greater density of Liquor Establishments because of immediate and long-term public health and safety risks. A submission from Vancouver Coastal Health is included in Appendix I. The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) are experts in public safety risks associated with concentrations of liquor establishments, late night crowds and intoxication. Staff consulted with VPD. A VPD statement is in Appendix J.

Other stakeholders include hospitality industry associations, business operators, Business Improvement Associations, and Good Night Out Vancouver. The full list of stakeholders is in Appendix H.

The policy review links to City strategies and initiatives including *The Vancouver Music Strategy*, *The Healthy City Strategy* and the Granville Street Planning process. Recommendations support City Council's Strategic Priorities Objective 1 – Ensuring Vancouver is a dynamic and vibrant city; and Objective 3 Supporting Business – to support local business and ensure the business climate is welcoming.

Key goals of [Citywide Liquor Policy](#) are to support the local economy, enhance livability, protect public health and safety, and ensure an efficient regulatory framework. Staff considered these goals in assessing options for updates.

Discussion

Staff propose a simplified policy on location of Liquor Establishments (Appendix A). It sets no distance requirements and only one location requirement: Liquor Establishment Class 2 should be the largest Class located next to residential districts, with Class 2 maximum capacity increased from 150 to 200 persons. Exceptions would be made for establishments in hotels or other major business developments.

Anticipated benefits of simplified policy and reduced regulation citywide are:

- Increased opportunity for new and existing businesses seeking locations in Vancouver; better alignment with regulations in other municipalities;

- Enables clusters of same size establishments throughout the city and the potential for new, diverse destination areas
- Enables increased density of smaller establishments near residential districts, which can support the City's goals for complete, walkable neighbourhoods. Looking to the future, as VanPlan is being implemented through area planning such as Villages, having a policy in place that enables opportunities for small liquor establishments will be useful. Setting a maximum Class 2 size establishment next to residential districts can retain livability and protect residents from noise and nuisance that can come with larger establishments.
- Increases financial viability of smaller establishments offering live entertainment by increasing Class 2 maximum capacity from 150 to 200.
- Supports small establishments by removing the existing requirement for a kitchen in Non-Downtown locations (Appendix F). Business operators can decide whether a full kitchen with its capital and operational costs, and regulatory processes, is right for them.

The proposed change poses some risk to public health by removing limits on density of establishments, including near residential areas (Appendix I). Staff anticipate that if the policy is approved some new Liquor Establishments will open. How many and where is unknown. The current economic environment including high borrowing, equipment and payroll costs, and employee shortages make launching a new business challenging. On commercial streets in residential neighbourhoods the existing capacity for Liquor Establishments under current policy is not fully used; restaurants are much more common. It is not clear that removing distance requirements will result in a significant number of new pubs and nightclubs in these areas.

Granville Entertainment District (GED)

Staff propose to remove the moratorium (Appendix K) on additional Liquor Establishments and seat expansions in the Granville Entertainment District (GED). As in the rest of the city, no distancing requirements between establishments of the same size would be required.

Downtown Granville Street is in transition. As a hospitality-focused district, the GED suffered tremendously during the pandemic; businesses are struggling to recover.

The City is undertaking a [Planning process](#) to help re-establish Granville as an exciting, welcoming, safe and inclusive downtown destination. Results from the first phase of public engagement show priorities including arts and culture spaces; patios and places to gather and celebrate; and exciting businesses and events throughout the day and night. There is some interest in having more pubs and nightclubs, but more people prioritized sit-down restaurants and live-performance venues as their choice of liquor serving establishments².

Removing the moratorium will open the door to new operators who may bring fresh ideas aligned with the new vision for Granville Street. The lack of distance requirements will give businesses flexibility to innovate and bring forward a wide range of offerings.

In addition, staff propose to align operating hours for Liquor Establishments on Granville Street so that all establishments between Drake St and W. Georgia St operate under the same hours.

Removal of the moratorium does risk increasing late night disorder, including gender based violence and public health harms from intoxication, all of which are significant concerns in the

² [Granville Street Planning Phase 1 Engagement Summary Vision and Objectives](#)

GED. Expanded opportunities for pubs and nightclubs must be accompanied by new and on-going measures to protect public health and safety for residents and for visitors. Through the Granville Street Planning process staff will work with stakeholders to develop an equitable approach and recommendations to address public safety in the GED. Early recommendations that are being explored include a sobering space, drop-in service for survivors of gender based violence, and increased funding for evening street outreach. The Granville Street Planning process will conclude in 2024.

Dual Licensed Businesses

Since the Council direction to suspend distancing for restaurants seeking evening hours Liquor Establishment licences in Downtown and the DTES, twelve applications have been approved and six businesses have been fully licensed and are operating. Few complaints have been recorded to date. Staff recommend the City align its support for starting hours with hours allowed by the Province, 9pm instead of the current 10pm City policy. This change gives businesses the option of closing their kitchens one hour earlier and may increase financial viability. Staff will continue to monitor impacts of Dual licences.

Expanding Support for Non-Traditional Liquor Primary Licences

Staff recommend that the City expand its support for Liquor Primary licences at not-traditional liquor serving businesses beyond retail art dealers and community associations to include businesses like spas, barbershops, and bookstores. Staff propose to define eligible business types as those who typically receive customers on site (Appendix B); the Provincial intent is that liquor service during business hours is for customers of the primary business. Staff have heard of interest from a small number of businesses. The Province reports a limited number of these licences issued province-wide, and no compliance problems with licensees to date.

Staff further propose to amend the definition of Limited Service Food Establishment in the Licence By-law to enable these businesses to apply for a non-traditional liquor licence.

Process Improvement – Delegation of Authority to the CLI

City recommendations to the LCRB on applications for new Liquor Primary licences to operate in Vancouver require a Council resolution. Council resolution is the last step in the City approval process and can add up to 6 weeks, depending on the Council cycle. To decrease processing time, staff recommend Council delegate its authority to make recommendations on all Liquor Primary licences to the CLI. The CLI currently has delegated authority to make recommendations on changes to liquor licences, including to licence capacity. A delegated process would include an appeal process so that an applicant who disagrees with the CLI recommendation could appeal to Council for reconsideration.

Amendments to Cabaret and Restaurant Guidelines

Staff propose that Council approve amendments to the Cabaret and Restaurant Guidelines to update and align them with the proposed Policy on Establishments with Provincial Liquor Primary Licences (Appendix D).

* * * * *

APPENDIX A

POLICY ON ESTABLISHMENTS WITH PROVINCIAL LIQUOR PRIMARY LICENSES

The Provincial Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch seeks City Council recommendations on applications for Provincial Liquor Primary licences in Vancouver. The City provides comment on the suitability of the location and hours of operation.

The following policies will inform recommendations to the Provincial Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch on applications for Liquor Primary licences.

Liquor Primary licence holders are issued the following Vancouver business licences, based on the main purpose of their business.

Standard Hours Liquor Establishment Class 1 – 6; Extended Hours Class 1 – 6

Pubs, clubs and bars where liquor service is the primary business. Standard Hours and Extended Hours Liquor Establishment Class 3, 4, 5 and 6 may not be located abutting residential districts. Exceptions will be considered for establishments located in hotels and major business developments.

Recommended hours for these establishments will not exceed hours established in the Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law.

Dual licensed establishments operate Restaurants during the day and Standard or Extended Hours Liquor Establishment Class 1 – 6 in the evening. The City will support 9pm as the starting hour for these Liquor Establishments.

Venue is a licence for theatres, halls, stadiums, arenas and other event driven businesses that serve liquor in conjunction with pre-booked events. The City will generally support hours of liquor service limited to two hours before and one hour after events.

APPENDIX B

DRAFT By-law to amend the License By-law No. 4450 regarding miscellaneous amendments to liquor establishment and liquor licence regulations

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, in public meeting, enacts as follows:

1. This by-law amends the indicated provisions of the License By-law.
2. In section 2, Council:
 - (a) in the definition of Extended Hours Liquor Establishment – Class 2, strikes out “150” and substitutes “200”;
 - (b) in the definition of Limited Food Service Establishment, strikes out “, and that does not include the sale of alcoholic drinks to customers for consumption on the premises”;
 - (c) in the definition of Standard Hours Liquor Establishment – Class 2, strikes out “150” and substitutes “200”; and
 - (d) in the definition of Standard Hours Liquor Establishment – Class 8, strikes out “a community association with an arts and culture mandate, or a business the primary purpose of which is the sale of works of art” and substitutes “a business the primary purpose of which is retail sales or the provision of a service to customers on the premises”.
3. In section 9A.1(1), Council strikes out “, except that Council does not delegate to the Inspector its power and duties with regard to the issuance of liquor primary licences”.
4. In section 19.2A(11)(a), Council strikes out “after 11:00 p.m.” and substitutes “outside the hours set for standard hours liquor establishments in the Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law”.
5. In section 2, Council:
 - (a) in the definition of Extended Hours Liquor Establishment – Class 2, strikes out “150” and substitutes “200”;
 - (b) in the definition of Limited Food Service Establishment, strikes out “, and does not sell alcohol”;
 - (c) in the definition of Standard Hours Liquor Establishment – Class 2, strikes out “150” and substitutes “200”; and
 - (d) in the definition of Standard Hours Liquor Establishment – Class 8, strikes out “a community association with an arts and culture mandate, or a business the primary purpose of which is the sale of works of art” and substitutes “a business the primary purpose of which is retail sales or the provision of a service to customers on the premises”.

6. In section 9(1), Council strikes out “, except that Council does not delegate to the Inspector its power and duties with regard to the issuance of liquor primary licences”.

7. In section 21.3(11)(a), Council strikes out “after 11:00 p.m.” and substitutes “outside the hours set for standard hours liquor establishments in the Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law”.

8. This by-law is to come into force and take effect on the date of its enactment, except that sections 5, 6 and 7 are to come into force and take effect on April 1, 2024, immediately after By-law No. 13702 comes into force and takes effect.

ENACTED by Council this day of , 2023

Mayor

City Clerk

APPENDIX C

**DRAFT By-law to amend the Business Premises Regulation of Hours
By-law No. 8022 regarding an adjustment of hours for Granville Street**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, in public meeting, enacts as follows:

1. This by-law amends the indicated provisions of Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law No. 8022.
2. In section 2, Council:
 - (a) in the definition of Downtown – Primarily Commercial, adds “, and also includes the 1000-1300 blocks of Granville Street” after “Schedule C”; and
 - (b) in the definition of Downtown - Primarily Mixed Use, adds “, but does not include the 1000-1300 blocks on Granville Street”.
3. This by-law is to come into force and take effect on the date of its enactment.

ENACTED by Council this day of , 2023

Mayor

City Clerk

APPENDIX D AMENDMENT TO CABARET AND RESTAURANT GUIDELINES

~~CABARET AND~~ RESTAURANT GUIDELINES

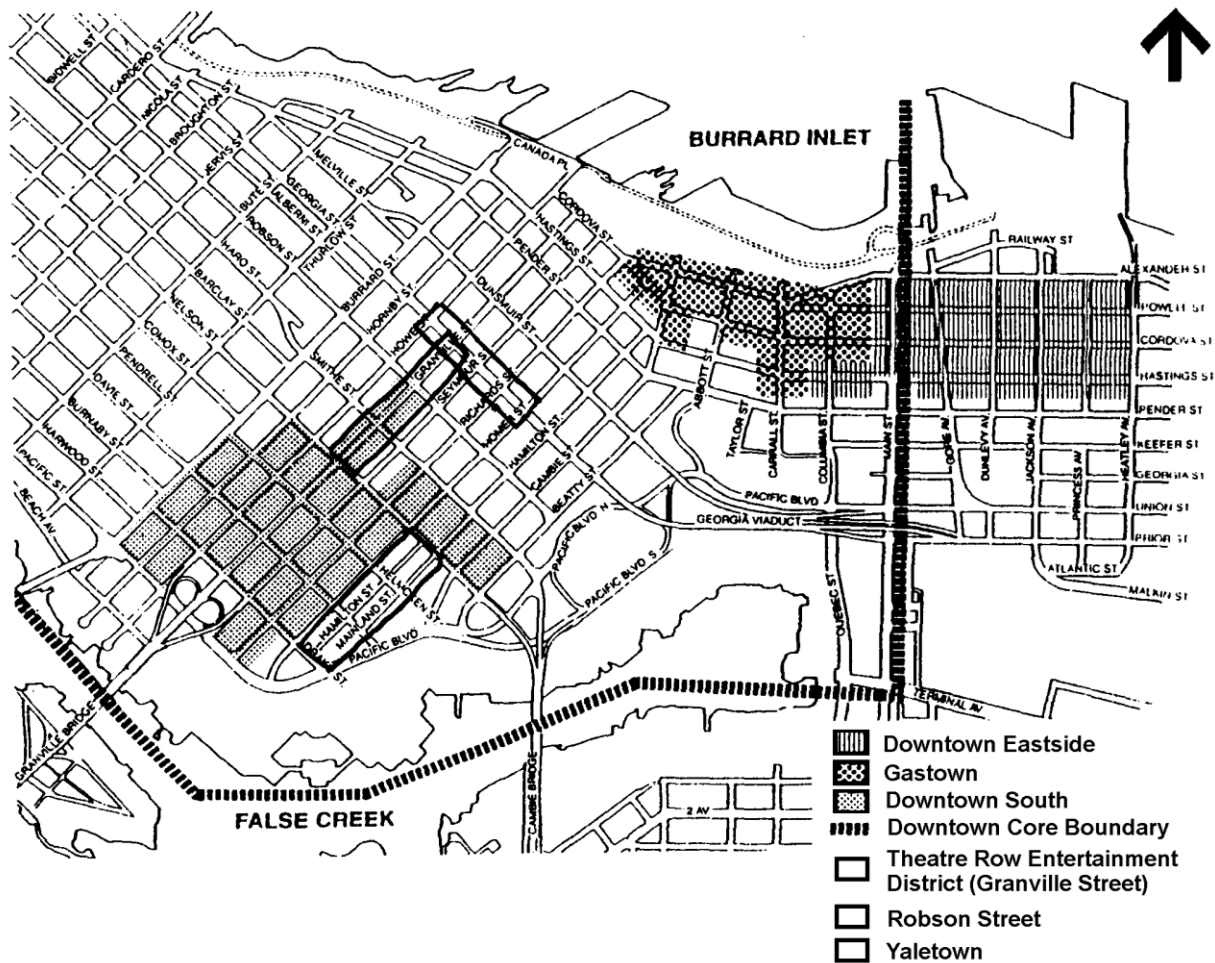
(Including Establishments with Exotic Dancers and Strippers)

Adopted by City Council on August 9 and October 4, 1988

Amended March 14 and August 1, 1989, October 16 and November 6, 1990, May 28, 1992,

April 21, 1994, June 19, 1997, December 11, 1997, October 31, 2000, ~~and~~ July 20, 2022, ~~and~~
December XX 2023

[Map to be deleted]



These guidelines are to be used in conjunction with a district schedule of the Zoning and Development By-law or with an official development plan by-law for development permit applications ~~for a cabaret, or~~ for a restaurant with dancing or live entertainment involving three or more persons or the use of an amplified musical instrument ~~and patron participation~~ (Restaurant - Class 2), including any increases in capacity or redevelopment of the premises. ~~Cabaret and Restaurant - Class 2 are is defined in Section 2 of the Zoning and Development By-law. The Liquor Licensing Policies and Procedures should also be consulted.~~

~~On April 21, 1994, Council directed that applications for establishments with exotic dancers or strippers be processed as “similar to” cabaret, and that these guidelines also apply to such establishments.~~

~~On June 19, 1997, Council approved new policies for the Theatre Row Entertainment District and other areas. These are outlined in Liquor Licensing Policies and Procedures.~~

- (1) For any proposed development, a ~~cabaret~~, restaurant - class 2 or establishment with exotic dancers or strippers should not be located abutting, with or without the intervention of a street or lane, a residential use, R district, school, church, community centre, hospital or other institutional building where activities may take place in the evening.
- ~~(2) For any proposed development, parking spaces and vehicular access to parking spaces required or provided should be oriented and located so they do not abut, face or adversely impact any residential or hospital use or R district.~~
- ~~(2 3) For any proposed restaurant – class 2, a public notification to owners within a 2 block radius should be conducted. development, except within a new hotel outside the Downtown Core, a referendum polling residents and businesses within a 2,000 foot (610 m) radius should be carried out at the expense of the applicant (similar to a Neighbourhood Pub). At least 60% of those polled should approve the proposed development.~~
- ~~(4) For any proposed development, except in the Theatre Row Entertainment District (the 700, 800 and 900 blocks of Granville Street), within a new hotel inside the Downtown Core, a referendum polling residents and businesses within a 1,000 foot (305 m) radius should be carried out at the expense of the applicant (similar to a Neighbourhood Pub). At least 60% of those polled should approve the proposed development.~~
- ~~(5) Favourable consideration should be given to relaxing the one mile minimum distancing requirement for endorsing several applications for Class D “local pubs” on Theatre Row, Robson Street (Howe to Homer), or Yaletown, subject to a legal agreement indicating there will be no outdoor patio seating, off-site sale, exotic dancing, amplified music or a dance floor on the premises, and that it will not be operated in combination with an adjacent restaurant.~~
- ~~(6) Favourable consideration should be given to endorsing one larger cabaret, up to a maximum of 1,000 seats in a non-residential area of the downtown, preferably one identified as appropriate for an entertainment focus, subject to the applicant providing research from other cities demonstrating the economic feasibility of such an establishment, an analysis of the effect it would have on other entertainment venues in Vancouver, and an analysis and strategy to deal with any social or neighbourhood impacts.~~
- ~~(7) For any proposed development, the applicant should provide a report from an acoustical consultant indicating the soundproofing measures which will be taken to ensure that noise does not emanate from the premises.~~
- ~~(8) For any proposed development, the building should be air conditioned so that it is not necessary to open doors or windows, thus negating the soundproofing.~~
- ~~(9) Any increase in seating capacity of existing cabarets is discouraged where they are adjacent to residential uses except for the Theatre Row Entertainment District. Where an existing cabaret is not close to and has no impact on any residential use, both physical expansion and increase in seating capacity (from 225 up to 350 seats) may be approved provided that the building meets all by-law requirements. The normal development permit process would apply, where necessary.~~
- ~~(10) In the Downtown Eastside and Gastown areas new liquor licenses for Cabaret or Restaurant Class 2, or amendments to existing licenses to increase seating capacity or extend hours of sale will not be permitted.~~
- (3)-(11) Development permits for establishments with exotic dancers or strippers should be limited in time to three years. ~~At the end of the time limit, no further referendum should be required unless directed by the Vancouver Liquor Licensing Commission.~~
- ~~(12) In cases where Time limited Development Permit approvals for new or physical expansion of existing Class ‘A’ Lounge/Pub, Class ‘C’ Cabaret, Class ‘D’ Neighbourhood Pub or~~

~~Restaurant – Class 2 licensed establishments are granted, they should be issued subject to the process outlined below:~~

~~(i) – The applicant files a pre-site application with the Chief License Inspector.~~

~~(ii) – The applicant receives the endorsement of Council subject to the applicant acknowledging their understanding of the four-month Time-limited Development Permit process.~~

~~(iii) – The applicant submits a Development Permit application. The Development Permit approval will be granted subject to satisfactory compliance with the relevant requirements of the Zoning and Development, Parking and/or Official Development Plan By-laws. A Development Permit approval may be granted for the new development, (i.e., change of use, new construction or construction of an addition to the existing facility) and would be limited in time to a four-month period subject to four-month renewals by the Director of Planning unless instructed otherwise by Council.~~

~~(13) – With respect to existing Class ‘A’ Lounge/Pub, Class ‘C’ Cabaret or Class ‘D’ Neighbourhood Pub licensed establishments seeking extended hours or increased seating capacity, Council endorse a process of requiring the holder of the existing Development Permit to relinquish that permit, and to apply for a time-limited permit.~~

**APPENDIX E
 ZONING & DEVELOPMENT BYLAW ZONING DISTRICT SCHEDULES THAT PERMIT PUBS
 AND NIGHTCLUBS**

Table (1): Zoning District Schedules that permit Cabaret and Neighbourhood Public House

Cabaret	Neighbourhood Public House	
C-2	C-1	I-1
C-3A	C-2	I-1A
C-5	C-2B	I-1B
C-5A	C-2C	I-1C
C-6	C-2C1	M-1
FC-1	C-3A	M-1A
IC-3	C-5	MC-1
HA-1	C-5A	MC-2
HA-1A	C-6	HA-1
HA-2	C-7	HA-1A
	C-8	HA-2
	FC-1	HA-3
	FC-2	

Note: Cabaret and Neighbourhood Public House are conditional use approvals in all district schedules

Cabarets and Neighbourhood Public Houses are permitted uses in some CD-1 districts.

APPENDIX F DISTANCING POLICY

Table 1: Summary of Liquor Distancing Policy

Liquor Est. Class (by person capacity)	Allowed where Neighbourhood Public House or Cabaret is a permitted use in Z&D By-law	Distance Required between Establishments of same Class	
		Downtown	Non-Downtown
Class 1 (1- 65)	All areas of the City	50 m	500 m
Class 2 (66 - 150)	All areas of the City In Downtown primarily residential areas only with food service & specified kitchen size In Non-Downtown primarily residential areas, only in local shopping areas, food service & specified kitchen size	100 m	500 m
Class 3 (151 - 300)	Primarily commercial, industrial & mixed-use areas Not abutting primarily residential	100 m	500 m
Class 4 (301 - 500)	Primarily Commercial & industrial areas Downtown in primarily mixed-use areas only with food service & specified kitchen size Non-Downtown in primarily Mixed-use only with major hotel. Not abutting primarily residential	100 m	500 m
Class 5 (501 - 950)	Primarily Commercial & industrial areas	500 m	750 m
Class 6 (950+)	Not abutting primarily residential or mixed-use	750 m	1 km

Note: Exceptions may be considered for an establishment located within a hotel or other major business/development with internal access, security, and additional impact reduction strategies

APPENDIX G RESEARCH

Table 1 Regulation of Liquor Establishment Location and Density in BC Cities

City	Zoning	Policy/Guidelines	Other considerations
Burnaby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquor establishments permitted in mostly commercial zones and some public and institutional zones. Some zones allow for more than 100-seat establishments (i.e. commercial zones/town centres) while all other zones where permitted, allow for 100 or fewer seat establishments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff can apply Council approved guidelines to limit total number of karaoke bars through buffers. No buffers between liquor establishment and other land uses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not regulate density of liquor establishments (where they can be located in relation to other liquor establishments) outside of karaoke guidelines.
Kelowna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquor establishments permitted in mostly commercial, mixed use, urban centres and some industrial zones. Permitted as a secondary use in other zones (i.e. Comprehensive Development Zones) Some zones limit size by floor area/capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A liquor policy exists that is no longer used in most liquor application reviews: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manages density (how many) and distribution (where) of liquor establishments Sets limits on size of establishments and distance from other establishments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoning by-law updated in 2022 and serves as the framework for where liquor establishments are permitted.
Richmond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquor establishments are permitted in some mixed-use and commercial zones. Sets limit on size of Neighbourhood Public House at 125 persons where permitted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a minimum distance all liquor establishments must be from schools, parks or community centres (500m). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not regulate size of liquor establishment except Neighbourhood Public House. Does not regulate density of liquor establishments.
Surrey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquor establishments permitted in most commercial zones. Liquor service permitted within the <i>Entertainment Use</i>, provided a <i>Neighbourhood Pub</i> is also permitted within the Zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides location criteria where neighbourhood pubs should be located (i.e. proximity to residential use). Establishes a minimum distance of 400m all neighbourhood pubs should be from schools, children’s parks, playgrounds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not regulate size/capacity of liquor establishments. Does not regulate density of liquor establishments to each other or total number of establishments.

<p>Victoria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two zoning by-laws (downtown and non-downtown). • Liquor establishments permitted in mostly central business districts and commercial zones and there is also site-specific rezoning that allows this use. • Some non-downtown zones that permit liquor establishments limit size of establishment by capacity/floor area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy guides how staff process an application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not generally regulate size/capacity of liquor establishments (historically, some site specific rezoning set conditions such as capacity and floor area). • Does not regulate density of liquor establishments to each other or total number of establishments.
<p>Whistler</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liquor establishments are permitted in mostly commercial and industrial zones and some comprehensive development, residential zones. • Whistler considers the Core Commercial 1 and 2 districts as their “entertainment” areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive liquor policy in place to guide the Liquor Licence Advisory Committee (LLAC) who provides feedback and recommendations to Council and staff on applications. • The policy guides staff and the LLAC to determine size of and where and how many liquor establishments should be permitted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy does not provide defined criteria on size, density and distribution of liquor establishments. Rather, it provides guidelines or considerations for staff/LLAC.

Provincial & City regulatory changes since 2006 that increased access to liquor in Vancouver:

- Patios at Liquor Establishments
 - Enabled in 2007 (CoV)
 - Extended summer hours implemented, 2014 (CoV)
 - Limit on % of total seats removed, 2018 (CoV)
 - Increased opportunities for patios on private property, 2023 (CoV)
 - Year round patios, 2021 (CoV)
 - Outdoor liquor consumption spaces piloted, 2020 (CoV)
- Manufacturer lounges (Breweries, wineries, distilleries)
 - Enabled, 2013 (CoV)
 - Increase to 20% of stock from other manufacturers, 2016 (LCRB)
 - Patios enabled 2017 (CoV)
- Restaurants with Liquor Service
 - Liquor purchase without food allowed 2015 (LCRB)

- Patron mobility with drinks (LCRB)
- Dual licensing enabled, 2016 (LCRB) (CoV)
- Non-traditional liquor serving Businesses
 - Eligible for Liquor Primary licence, 2016 (LCRB); 2017 (CoV)
- Liquor Establishments
 - Occupant Load calculations for liquor service area aligned with BC Fire Code; distancing policy exceptions up to 30% permitted to enable businesses to take advantage of new calculation, 2020 (CoV)

Change in Access to Liquor Establishments (pubs and nightclubs) since 2006

Since 2006, the number of pubs and nightclubs licensed to operate in Vancouver has decreased slightly. In 2006 there were 179 and in 2023 there are 168.

APPENDIX H STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Organizations, businesses and groups consulted

ÆGIR Consulting Inc.	Kissa Tanto Restaurant
After Dark Hospitality	Laowei and Bagheera
Alliance of Beverage Licensees	MJB Lawyers
American, Hero's Welcome	Mount Pleasant BIA
Bar Watch	MRG Group
BC Craft Brewers	Number 5 Orange
Cabana	Numbers Cabaret
Chinatown BIA	Paradox Hotel, Mansion
Collingwood BIA	Parq
Commodore – Live Nation	Point Gray BIA
DD Mau	Randall Olafson Consultants Ltd.
Downtown BIA	Rising Tide Consultants Ltd.
Fraser Street BIA	Strathcona BIA
Fringe Café	Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden
Gastown BIA	The Pint
Good Night Out	Thrive Advisors
Hightower Management (Pumpjack Pub, The Junction, GPO)	Heritage Vancouver Society
Hospitality Vancouver Association	West End BIA
IRL Group	

BIA Members Survey - July 21 to August 22, 2023

Survey Instrument	Representation	# of Participants
Online survey	Members from 7 BIAs 1 non-member BIA's represented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraser Street • Gastown, • Hastings North • Marpole • South Granville • Strathcona • West Broadway 	23

Key Components of Distancing Policy, Stakeholder Feedback and Staff Comment

1. Reduce or remove distance requirements between establishments of the same size citywide

Feedback overwhelmingly supported removal of distance requirements between establishments of the same size Downtown and outside of Downtown. Industry associations and business owners stressed that distancing requirements limit their ability to find suitable, affordable locations.

There was some support for retaining distance requirements between large establishments (Class 4, 5, and 6), particularly outside of Downtown.

Staff note that the current policy already allows for large establishments next to one another, for example a 500 person Class 4, next to a 750 person Class 5. Removal of distance requirements would allow two Class 4s to locate next to one another or two Class 5s.

2. Increase Class 2 Maximum Capacity beyond 150

Staff heard support for increasing the maximum capacity of Class 2. Business operators noted that 150 maximum capacity, which includes staff, can be challenging for businesses that want to make space for live entertainment. The space required for a small stage and equipment reduces the number of customers that can enter the establishment. Stakeholders supported between 200 and 250.

Staff note that Class 2 is the current maximum size establishment allowed next to residential districts. Setting a new maximum capacity of 200 persons provides an immediate opportunity for a 33 % increase to existing businesses (pending site and building suitability), and helps to retain livability for neighbourhood residents.

3. Size of establishments next to residential districts

Feedback was mixed on retaining smaller Class 2 establishments as the largest Class next to residential districts. Some stakeholders felt that businesses should be able to determine the size of establishment appropriate to an area. Some supported up to Class 3 next to residential. Others agreed that Class 2 with an increase to 200 maximum capacity is appropriate.

Staff note that removal of distancing requirements enables increased density next to residential districts. Retaining the Class 2 limit can help to maintain neighbourhood livability and residents from the nuisance that can accompany larger establishments.

The proposed policy makes exception for establishments located in hotels or major business developments so there are opportunities for larger establishments that might be located next to residential districts.

4. Granville Entertainment District (GED): remove moratorium from all or some size establishments

Industry stakeholders were overwhelmingly in support of removing the GED moratorium on establishments of all sizes. The central view is that the GED will benefit from new operators who will diversify offerings and bring in more and new customers. Some stakeholders expressed the view that the moratorium in the GED has impeded positive change in that area because existing operators do not face competition.

Not all owners favour removal of the moratoria. A few reported that new competition for a limited customer base is unwelcome at a time when businesses are struggling to recover from the pandemic, and face on-going challenges including staff shortages, payroll increases, and inflation.

Business Improvement Associations did not take official positions. Feedback included the view that new businesses can draw new customers, and more businesses open during day and evening hours can help to improve safety in the area.

Staff heard strong concern from some non-industry stakeholders that removing the moratorium in the GED risks increased harms to public health and safety, particularly from late night disorder including assault and sexual assault, and over-consumption of liquor. Populations including women and other equity deserving groups were identified as being at high risk of violence. Immediate health harms to individuals associated with over-consumption of liquor were also identified. These stakeholders either do not support additional pubs and nightclubs, or support smaller size establishments only.

Feedback from Good Night Out Vancouver suggested the City require staff training in sexual violence prevention.

Barwatch suggested the City require all new establishments to participate in the Barwatch program.

Staff agree that expanded opportunities for pubs and nightclubs risk increasing harms to public health and safety and must be accompanied by new and on-going measures to protect public health and safety for residents and for visitors. Through the Granville Street Planning process staff will work with stakeholders to develop an equitable approach and recommendations to address public safety in the GED. Early recommendations that are being explored include a sobering space, drop-in service for survivors of gender based violence, and increased funding for evening street outreach.

5. Delegation of authority for recommendations to the Province on Liquor Primary applications

Industry organizations, business owners and industry consultants support this change noting that any changes that can speed up processing of applications are welcome.

**APPENDIX I
VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH SUBMISSION
(SEE NEXT PAGE)**

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To: Sarah Hicks
Chief Licence Inspector, Development, Buildings & Licensing
City of Vancouver, 515 W 10th Avenue
Sarah.Hicks@vancouver.ca

Dear Sarah,

Re: Evidence Review - Outlet Density, Hours of Sale and Impact on Violence and Injuries

City of Vancouver has proposed removing regulations around alcohol outlet density in order to "modernize" the landscape of where alcohol can be served in Vancouver. As Medical Health Officer for the City of Vancouver I believe that these proposals carry the potential to increase alcohol consumption and harm in the city. My primary concern is the removal of the moratoria and distancing requirements between establishments of the same liquor class, due to the impact these could have on alcohol availability, consumption and harms.

To assist the City of Vancouver (CoV) Council in making informed decisions, I have compiled some of the key public health evidence related to the proposed policy changes.

Context:

On July 05, 2022, the CoV Council asked CoV staff to:

"Review the Distancing Policy and report back in 2023 with recommendations to update & modernize regulation of liquor regulation of liquor establishment"

With thanks to the thoughtful engagement carried out by CoV Staff during their policy development process, I understand that staff are proposing four key policy changes to "modernize" existing liquor rules. If implemented, the proposed changes will:

1. Expand capacity limits for Class 1 and Class 2 liquor permits
2. Remove the distancing requirements between the same liquor classes (both in downtown and wider Vancouver)
3. Remove the moratorium on the issuance of new licenses in the Granville Entertainment District (GED) and the Downtown Eastside (DTES)
4. Extend hours of sales in certain downtown locations by one hour

The stated goal of these policy changes are to increase flexibility and opportunity for liquor establishments, maintain neighbourhood liveability and limit harms to public health and public safety. I understand that Council have many considerations to balance, but if Council were to take the most drastic decisions on the above four areas, it is my assessment that it would have a significantly detrimental impact on their third stated goal to limit negative public health and safety outcomes in the City.

Alcohol Harm:

Alcohol is the most commonly used psychoactive substance in Canada yet its consumption is a leading cause of preventable death, harms and disability, here and across the Globe.ⁱ In Canada, alcohol consumption contributed to 17,000 deaths in 2020.ⁱⁱ There is robust evidence that consuming alcohol (ethanol) increases the risk of a wide range of diseases and conditions, including liver disease, seven forms of cancer, heart disease, dementia, gastrointestinal complications, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and alcohol use disorder.ⁱⁱⁱ Several systematic reviews have observed that there is no lower risk threshold between alcohol use and the diagnosis of (and death) from cancer, some strokes and hypertensive heart disease.^{iv} In light of these findings, mathematical modelling and extensive consultations with experts, the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA) funded by Health Canada, published new “Alcohol and Health” guidelines in January of this year. Unlike previous public health advice where alcohol was considered safe if consumed in small quantities, **these guidelines state that the risk of a negative outcome begins to increase with any consumption and that when it comes to drinking alcohol, drinking less means less risk of harm.**^v This evidence, endorsed by Canada's Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health, underscores the need for a turning point in our policy approach to alcohol.^{vi}

The economic burden of alcohol use on society is also significant. Across Canada, the costs associated with alcohol were \$19.7 billion in 2020, substantially higher than that of either tobacco or opioids and up from \$16.6 billion in 2017.^{vii} In 2020, healthcare costs related to alcohol (hospitalization, surgery, emergency department visits, etc.) totaled \$6.3 billion.^{viii} Alcohol was the leading cause of substance use-attributable lost productivity in the workforce, and accounted for the greatest costs to the criminal justice system.^{ix} In that same year, alcohol use cost the province of British Columbia \$2.81 billion – an average of \$545 per person.^x

Since 2002, alcohol consumption has remained high in Vancouver, although there was a slight decrease in consumption between 2019 and 2021.^{xi} Nonetheless, in Vancouver’s City Centre, alcohol consumption generally exceeds regional and provincial averages.^{xii} During the COVID-19 pandemic, alcohol consumption in British Columbia (BC) increased by 1.4%, reaching the highest level since tracking commenced in 2001.^{xiii} According to BC’s COVID-19 SPEAK 2 Survey, 24 percent of respondents in the VCH region reported drinking more than before the pandemic and 28 percent of drinkers reported binge drinking at least once per month in the past year.^{xiv} These high rates of alcohol consumption are having a direct impact on the pressures facing the healthcare system. In 2021, direct alcohol-attributable hospitalizations in BC increased by 15% when compared to 2019 rates, and BC ranked second highest among all Canadian provinces.^{xv}

Current policy and social context:

As demonstrated above, alcohol consumption is prevalent and socially accepted in Vancouver and in BC. These behaviors are heavily influenced by various factors within our social, economic, and physical environments, for which local governments play a significant role in shaping. The alcohol policy landscape in the City of Vancouver is complicated, and I

acknowledge that there is often widespread support for liquor liberalization, both within the industry and among the public. This popularity may, in part, stem from a lack of public awareness or understanding of the full extent of alcohol-related harms, which as stated above, is new and emerging. The popularity however, also stems from a desire to boost profits of industry, at the expense of community health. In any case, despite our ever increasing understanding of the health risks associated with alcohol, as detailed above, the City has continued to introduce and explore policies aimed at making alcohol more accessible and readily available, thereby increasing opportunities for consumption. For instance, during the pandemic, the City introduced the "Alcohol in Public Plazas" initiative, and the Park Board launched the "Alcohol in Parks" program. These efforts were coupled with expanded liquor store hours, enhanced home delivery services, and the increased roll-out of outdoor patios. Notably, last month, City Council approved the sale of wine in grocery stores, representing another step towards greater alcohol accessibility.

We often hear statements about the desire of policy makers to adopt a European-style approach to alcohol culture in Vancouver, where alcohol is viewed to be normalized and successfully consumed in moderation (noting that according to new evidence, even "moderate" drinking is harmful). This perspective is a concern and seems to be based on personal anecdotes and outdated stereotypes rather than fact. For instance, a 2018 WHO report on the global status of alcohol consumption reported that the top five countries with the highest alcohol consumption include four European nations, heavy episodic drinking is more prevalent in the majority of European countries when compared to Canada and even Mediterranean countries, such as Spain, Italy, and France, have higher standardized consumption rates.^{xvi}

Additionally, public health experts are often queried about why we advocate for a relaxation of consumption rules for certain psychoactive drugs while resisting against increasing access to alcohol. While legalizing the use of illicit drugs could enhance health and safety through quality assurance, reduce harms related to the criminal justice system, reallocate resources for prevention and treatment, and promote harm reduction and addiction support, it's important to note that alcohol is already readily and widely accessible. Our communities do not suffer from a toxic and unregulated supply of alcohol.

Vancouver should demonstrate leadership in the area of alcohol policy and prioritize the health and well-being of its residents by demonstrating that a vibrant city does not need to rely on alcohol as a driver of economic and cultural vitality.

Policy implications on alcohol consumption and subsequent harm:

Numerous interventions, such as pricing policies, marketing and advertising controls, drink-driving regulations, warning labels and signs, and clinical screenings/interventions, are all known to be effective in limiting alcohol consumption. **However, the regulation of the physical availability of alcohol is widely recognized as one of the most effective methods to reduce consumption.** The World Health Organization (WHO) considers it one of the 'best buys'

for reducing the harms of alcohol use. This involves restricting the proximity, number, and hours of stores, bars, and other establishments licensed to sell alcohol.

The current proposals, including the relaxation of distancing regulations between liquor outlets, would run counter to WHO advice and increase alcohol consumption and related harms in several interrelated ways by:

1. *Directly increasing outlet density:*

The proposal will allow more bars to open in areas that already have high alcohol outlet density. As stated above, there is a strong relationship between alcohol density and alcohol-related harms for both on-premise venues and off-premise retailers. A higher density of overall outlets is associated with short-term and long-term harms, and increased all-cause mortality.^{xvii} Research that has examined on- and off-premise outlets separately have found similar, but independent effects on consumption, binge drinking, violence and injury, and liver disease.^{xviii} These relationships have been demonstrated both cross-sectionally and longitudinally, meaning that these relationships cannot be attributed to self-selection – increases in density are associated with increases in harm. For example, here in BC, local increases in private liquor outlet density during 2003-2008 were associated with significant increases in local consumption, hospitalizations and alcohol-related death.^{xix} Density of outlets may affect harms from alcohol in several ways: by increasing consumption through greater availability, through greater competition resulting in decreased prices, and by decreasing the perceived quality of the surrounding neighbourhood.^{xx}

In Vancouver, areas with a greater concentration of liquor establishments and restaurants serving alcohol are also the locations where residents self-report the highest rates of binge drinking.^{xxi}

2. *Impacting price:*

Increasing liquor outlet density by removing distancing requirements can heighten competition, leading to reduced prices, increased consumption, and heightened harm. The WHO considers the price of alcohol as a significant driver of consumption, with lower prices leading to increased consumption.^{xxii} Local studies investigating the relationship between private alcohol outlet density and prices in BC over a decade have also shown a casual relationship, where increased density has been shown to increase competition amongst vendors, increase sales strategies and subsequently lower prices.^{xxiii} Conversely, other studies have shown that limiting the number of alcohol outlets can result in increased costs for alcoholic beverages due to reduced competition.^{xxiv} The resulting advertising and marketing efforts are also strongly associated with increased consumption and harm.^{xxv}

3. *Increasing Hours of Sale:*

The extension of hours of sale, impacts alcohol consumption and related harms. Maintaining the hours of sale at off-premise outlets, has been long established as an effective

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preventative measure against alcohol-related harms and excessive consumption.^{xxvi} More recently in 2020, a systematic review revealed that extending hours of sale at on-premises liquor establishments also led to an increase in alcohol-related harm, including unintentional injuries, assaults, and drink driving offenses.^{xxvii} Conversely, restricting the hours of sale at licensed establishments is known to reduce rates of alcohol-related harm, indicating that the relationship of serving hour policies works both ways in managing alcohol-related consequences.^{xxviii} Studies have shown that restricting evening sales is more effective in reducing alcohol consumption than restricting morning sales.^{xxix}

4. Impacts on Violence and Injuries:

It's important to recognize that the negative impacts of alcohol extend beyond the health of the immediate consumer. The relationship between alcohol use, violence, and injuries is well-established globally.^{xxx} Local studies have also shown that there is a significant relationship between urban environments and violent injuries, with a strong emphasis on the impact of alcohol consumption. Specific areas in Vancouver's Downtown Core are known as hotspots for violent injuries. These hotspots are known to be more prominent on Friday and Saturday nights and linked to a high density of alcohol-serving establishments.^{xxxi} Some of these areas, such as Granville Street, for instance, remain to be problematic areas with high rates of consumption, trauma-related injuries and crime. Internal analysis of call data has shown that both the Downtown Eastside and Granville Street are the current hot spots for overdose related ambulance dispatch calls in Vancouver. Regulating and preventing high alcohol outlet density through licensing and zoning measures remains to be an effective approach for curbing excessive alcohol consumption and its associated adverse effects.

Recommendation:

Considering the known harm caused by alcohol consumption and the strong relationship between alcohol outlet density and harm, I strongly urge the City to maintain the current rules regarding distancing and hours of operation. If the Council is inclined to amend current distancing requirements, then I recommend reducing existing regulations rather than removing them completely. This approach would allow for a phased implementation, where the effects of reducing the regulations could be assessed and scaled back if necessary.

**Mark Lysyshyn MD MPH FRCPC**

Deputy Chief Medical Health Officer

Vancouver Coastal Health

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- ^v Paradis, Butt, Shield, et al. (2023), Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health: Final Report, CCSA, internet [Canada's Guidance on Alcohol and Health: Final Report \(ccsa.ca\)](#)
- ^{vi} Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health (CCMOH), (2023). Statement from the CCMOH on Alcohol Consumption. Public Health Agency of Canada, internet [Statement from the Council of Chief Medical Officers of Health \(CCMOH\) on Alcohol Consumption - Canada.ca](#)
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- ^x CCSA and Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research (CISUR), Canadian substance use costs and harms data visualization tool, internet, [CSUCH - Explore the Data](#), date accessed: May 1, 2023.
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- ^{xii} Ibid.
- ^{xiii} Ibid. At the beginning of the pandemic (2020), alcohol consumption increased in BC, climbing in four of the five health regions. Province-wide, CISUR calculated: "Age 15+ per capita alcohol consumption of 9.32 L equates to every British Columbian aged 15+ (including non-drinkers) consuming an average of 547 bottles of beer a year, 10.5 per week or about 1.5 per day (regular strength 5% 341 mL bottles) or 104 average strength bottles of wine a year (12%, 750 mL bottles) or nearly two bottles of wine per week or 1.5 medium glasses per day." The Vancouver Coastal region as a whole diverged from the provincial trend with a 2020 reduction in alcohol consumption by 11 percent; however, not all parts of the Vancouver Coastal region followed a downward trend.
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- ^{xxiii} Treno, et al. (2013). Alcohol outlet densities and alcohol price: the British Columbia experiment in the partial privatization of alcohol sales off-premise, *Alcohol Clinical Express*. 37(5), 854-9 [Alcohol outlet densities and alcohol price: the British Columbia experiment in the partial privatization of alcohol sales off-premise - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)
- ^{xxiv} Stockwell, Gruenewald, et al. (2004). Controls on the physical availability of alcohol. *The Essential Handbook of Treatment and Prevention of Alcohol Problems*. 213-233.
- ^{xxv} WHO, (2018).
- ^{xxvi} Middleton, Hahn, et al. (2010). Effectiveness of Policies Maintaining or Restricting Days of Alcohol Sales on Excessive Alcohol Consumption and Related Harms. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 39(6), 575-589.

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^{xxvii} Nepal, et al. (2020). Effects of Extensions and Restrictions in Alcohol Trading Hours on the Incidence of Assault and Unintentional Injury: Systematic Review. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*. 81. 5-23. [Effects of Extensions and Restrictions in Alcohol Trading Hours on the Incidence of Assault and Unintentional Injury: Systematic Review | Request PDF \(researchgate.net\)](#)

^{xxviii} Atkinson, et al. (2018). Impacts of licensed premises trading hour policies on alcohol-related harms. *Addiction*, 113. 1244–1251. [Impacts of licensed premises trading hour policies on alcohol-related harms - Atkinson - 2018 - Addiction - Wiley Online Library](#)

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APPENDIX J

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ON POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Although the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) does not oppose the removal of liquor establishment distance requirements, or the removal of moratoriums on net new establishments the VPD does have concerns when it comes to seat increases in the GED. Our experience has shown that we need to proceed with caution when increasing the availability and access to alcohol in entertainment areas and where large crowds congregate.

Vancouver is an entertainment focal point for Metro Vancouver and people from all parts of the region are drawn particularly to the GED. This requires the VPD to increase resources devoted to crowd management and public safety. This was observed when hours were extended for liquor primary establishments and policing activities were increased as a direct result.

Despite these concerns with the GED, the VPD does not oppose the proposed modifications and acknowledges the purpose to better align with other neighbourhoods within the region. The VPD will closely monitor the effects that these proposed modifications have and we suggest a measured, incremental change management process.

APPENDIX K GED MORATORIUM

Granville Entertainment District

A moratorium on new liquor primary establishments and on additional patron capacity for existing establishments on Granville Street between West Georgia Street and Drake Street has been in place since 2009. The aim of the moratorium was to limit the significant public health and safety harms associated with the high concentration of Liquor Establishments on these blocks, and to encourage non-liquor focused businesses. Given persistent late night disorder Council reaffirmed the moratorium in [2017](#), and directed staff to continue looking for ways to support positive change in the area including establishment of a cross-sector GED Safety and Security Working Group whose efforts were reported to Council in [2018](#).