

Modernizing Business Land Uses and Policies

Public Hearing

October 21, 2025



Background | Council Motion Summary

Practical Updates to Modernize Vancouver's Business License Policies (March 2024)

- Arcade
- Adult Retail Stores
- Restaurant Class 2 (allows activities such as karaoke or dancing)

Amendments | Overview

Proposed amendments to modernize business regulations

1

Land Use By-laws (ZDBL & DODP)

- Expand potential locations for Arcade, Adult Retail Store & Restaurant – Class 2
- Update definition for Arcade

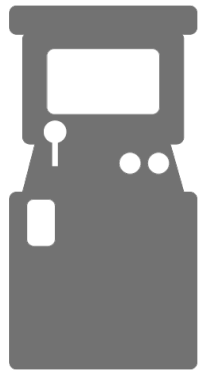
2

Licence By-law

- Remove restrictions on age of entry and hours of operation, specifically for Arcade and Adult Retail Store

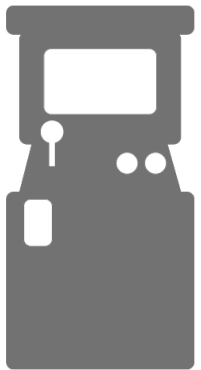
Overview

Arcade



- Regulations introduced in 1989 to address issues around school absenteeism, youth loitering, and delinquency
- Permitted in a limited number of commercial zones
- Defined as a premises that has 4 or more arcade machines

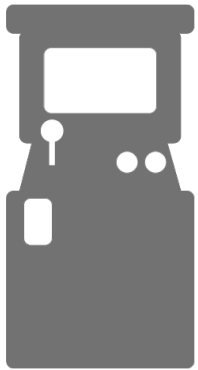
Arcade



- **Allow** Arcade as a use in all commercial zones
- **Update** Arcade Use definition to:
 - **Remove** number of machines that require a business to be considered an Arcade use
 - **Include** virtual reality rooms

Licence By-law Amendments

Arcade



Remove:

- Age of entry restrictions
- Limits on business hours
- Requirement to post patron rules of conduct

Overview

Adult Retail Store



- Introduced as a conditional use in 1994
- Permitted in limited zones with restrictions
- Subject to DP renewal

Adult Retail Store



Remove:

- Adult Retail Store use and allow stores selling adult goods as the Retail Store use
- Section 11 regulations:
 - Development permit renewal
 - Restrictions on co-location with arcades
 - Limits to store size and frontage

Repeal: Adult Retail Store Guidelines

Licence By-law Amendments

Adult Retail Store



Remove:

- Adult Retail Store as a business licence type
- Restrictions on age of entry and hours of operation
- Regulations on indoor display of adult publications

Retain restrictions on the display of adult goods in store windows

Overview

Restaurant Class 2



- Restaurant - Class 2 allows patron participation; which includes karaoke, dancing and open mic performing
- Restaurant - Class 2 is permitted in many commercial or mixed-use zones, but not all
- Restaurants with liquor service are required to obtain Provincial (LCRB) patron participation endorsement

ZDBL / DODP Amendments

Restaurant Class 2

- Expand Restaurant – Class 2 to areas of the city where Neighbourhood Public House and Cabaret are permitted (also allow patron participation)



Consultation



Industry & business owners

- 1**
 - Businesses impacted by the change
 - BIAs
 - Hospitality Vancouver Association
 - Alliance of Beverage Licensees BC (ABLE)
 - Restaurants BC
 - Restaurants Canada

- 2** **LCRB, VPD, VSB and VCH**

Conclusion

Recommendation

Council **approve** the Zoning and Development, Downtown Official Development Plan, and Licence By-law amendments to modernize the City's business regulations for Arcade, Adult Retail, and Restaurant Class - 2