



COUNCIL REPORT

Report Date: June 23, 2026
Contact: Sarah Hicks
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VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: July 14, 2026
[Submit comments to Council](#)

TO: Vancouver City Council
FROM: Chief Licence Inspector, Development, Buildings and Licensing
SUBJECT: 122 East Hastings Street – Liquor Licence Amendment – Permanent Hour Change

Recommendations

THAT Council, having considered the opinion of area residents, business operators and the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) as determined by public engagement, neighbourhood notification, public safety concerns and relevant Council policy outlined in this report, refuse the licence amendment application submitted by 0847939 BC LTD to permanently change their hours of liquor service (outside service hours) for their existing Liquor Establishment – Standard Class 2 business licence located at 122 East Hastings Street.

Purpose and Executive Summary

Staff recommend Council reject the applicant's request to permanently change their hours of liquor service (outside service hours) for their existing Liquor Establishment – Standard Class 2 business licence.

The application complies with current Council policy regarding hours of liquor service, but the overall public safety environment in the area remains a significant concern. Calls for service within a one-block radius of the establishment increased by 54% in 2025, while calls for service to the establishment itself increased by 28% over the same period. Together, these figures demonstrate a sustained and elevated level of police demand both at the establishment and across the surrounding area. Extending liquor service hours would place additional strain on the Vancouver Police Department and reduce its ability to respond effectively to emergent public safety concerns within the city.

Council Authority/Previous Decisions

[City role in Liquor Primary licence applications](#) – The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) of the Provincial Government regulations require local government to provide comments for certain licence application and amendments, including liquor primaries, food primaries, manufacturer lounges, manufacturer special event areas unless the local government decides to opt out of the application or amendment review process. Local governments must consider the impact of the new licence application on the community and to provide comment, generally in the form of a resolution.

[Liquor Policy Review – Recommended Actions \(June 14, 2017\)](#) – Council approved an amendment to the Licence By-law to delegate authority to the Chief Licence Inspector to provide comments directly to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch on all liquor licence amendments. This change streamlines the process and reduces the overall application timeline.

City Manager’s Comments

The City Manager concurs with the foregoing recommendations.

Context and Background

Provincial Regulations

The BC Liquor Control and Licensing Act and Regulation provide the framework for provincially licensed Liquor Primary (bars, nightclubs) and Food Primary (restaurants) businesses. The Provincial statute sets standards for responsible alcohol service, safety, licensing, compliance, and enforcement. They also define the role of local governments in licensing decisions, allowing local governments to address community-specific needs through land use, operating hours, and business licensing. The Province allows maximum liquor service from 9am to 4am for Liquor Primary, Food Primary and Manufacturer businesses, with local governments having authority to regulate hours to reflect community needs and priorities.

City Regulations

The Vancouver Charter grants the City authority to regulate business and liquor service hours. The Licence By-law governs business hours for Liquor Establishment such as bars, nightclubs, and private clubs, allowing maximum hours of operation from 9 am to 4 am downtown, or less depending on location and the type of licence issued. These hours reflect changes made to the Licence By-law as part of the policy modernization that was approved on July 22, 2025.

Public Safety

Extending Liquor Establishment operating hours and Restaurant service hours can affect public safety and health. Staff consulted with the Vancouver Police Department who are experts in public safety risks associated with later operating hours of licensed establishments, late night crowds, and intoxication. Extending operating and service hours increases risk of late-night disorder, violence, and over-consumption.

Establishment Licensing History

0847939 BC Ltd, doing business as New Brandiz Pub, was first issued a City of Vancouver Liquor Establishment – Standard – Class 2 licence on November 24, 2009. As per the Notice of Articles (NOA) under the Business Corporation Act, BC0847939 was incorporated on March 17, 2009, with Ahsanul Islam listed as the sole Director.

The establishment has held a Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Liquor Primary licence under 0847939 BC Ltd since 2009. Their current hours of liquor service are 11 am to 12 am, Sunday, and 11 am to 1 am, Monday to Saturday, and their current capacity is 117 patrons.

Discussion

Location of Establishment

The Liquor Establishment is in the Downtown Eastside Oppenheimer District (DEOD). The establishment is located on the ground floor of a multi-story single room occupancy (SRO) building in the Downtown Eastside. The establishment is one of 5 liquor establishments within the DEOD.

Person Capacity and Hours of Liquor Service

The Liquor Establishment has a licensed capacity of 117 patrons. There is no proposed change to their license capacity as part of the liquor licence amendment.

The establishments current hours of liquor service are 11 am to 12 am, Sunday, and 11 am to 1 am, Monday to Saturday. The requested hours of liquor service as per the licence amendment application are 9 am to 2 am, Sunday to Thursday, and 9 am to 3 am, Friday and Saturday. The requested hours are within the parameters of the liquor service hours permitted in this area, as set out in the Licence By-law.

Community Comments

Neighbourhood notification was conducted by means of a site sign advising the community of the application for a permanent change to hours of liquor service for the liquor establishment located at 122 East Hastings Street. The sign provided information on how and where to send comments. It was posted from December 3, 2025, to December 17, 2025.

No public comments were received in response to the neighbourhood notification.

Enforcement History

Over the past 24 months, no establishment complaints have been filed with the City of Vancouver.

Impact on the Community

Staff have considered the impact for noise on the surrounding community. An acoustic report certifying that the establishment meets the Noise Control By-law would be required if the application is approved. The design source level identified within the acoustic report would become a condition of the business licence and would support compliance and enforcement efforts if required.

Vancouver Police Comments

The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) has provided a detailed letter (Appendix A) outlining their concerns. The following summarizes those concerns:

While recent enforcement efforts under Task Force Barrage have resulted in measurable reductions in violent crime, the overall public safety environment in the area remains a significant concern.

In 2025, there were 188 violent incidents within a one-block radius of New Brandiz Pub. While this figure is a 14% reduction from 2024, it reflects a continued elevated level of violent activity in close proximity to the licensed establishment. Within a two-block radius of the establishment, there was 583 violent incidents, including 183 serious assaults, 46 robberies, 19 sexual assaults, 9 assaults against a police officer, 1 homicide, and 232 common assaults.

Calls for service within a one block radius of New Brandiz Pub increased by 54% in 2025. Separately, calls for service to the establishment itself increase by 28% over the same period. Together, these figures demonstrate a sustained and elevated level of police demand both at the establishment and across the surrounding area.

Given the continued concentration of violent crime across the Hastings Street corridor, the significant volume of calls for service and the documented year-over-year increase in police demand at the establishment, the VPD does not support the applicants request to extend their licensed hours of operation. Extending hours of liquor service daily would reasonably be expected to increase calls for service, incidents requiring police attendance, and late-night disorder. Under present staffing conditions, this would place additional strain on frontline officers and reduce the Department's ability to respond effectively to emergent public safety concerns elsewhere in the City

The VPD's concerns are further supported by recent police intelligence and enforcement activity associated with the establishment. Since January 2026, police have generated 10 files directly related to the location. Of those, seven involved gang or drug intelligence matters. During these investigations, individuals known to police for their involvement in the drug trade, violence, and organized criminal activity were observed frequenting and socializing within the establishment. While the presence of such individuals does not, in itself, establish wrongdoing by the licensee, it raises significant public safety concerns regarding the clientele being attracted to the venue and the potential for violence, retaliation, and other criminal activity to occur in or around the premises.

When considered alongside the elevated levels of violent crime in the surrounding area, the increasing demand for police service, and the documented history of police involvement at the establishment, these recent intelligence files further support the VPD's position that extending the licensed hours of operation would not be in the interest of public safety. The requested extension would likely increase the opportunity for criminally involved individuals to congregate at the establishment during late-night hours, thereby increasing the risk of violence, disorder, and further demands on already strained police resources.

Based on a comprehensive review of the application, compounding public safety risks along the Hastings Street corridor and recent police intelligence, staff recommend that Council refuse the applicant's request to extend their liquor service hours.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report's recommendations.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report's recommendations.

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APPENDIX A
Vancouver Police Department – Licence Amendment Denial Letter



VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT
Community Policing Services Unit

Date: February 13th, 2026
To: Chief License Inspector Sarah Hicks
From: Constable Deepak Sood
Subject: Extension Denial Justification

This document provides rationale for the decision to deny the request for bars in the Hastings Street area, including establishments such as Funky Winker Beans (35 / 37 W Hastings St), New Brandiz Pub (122 E Hastings St), and the Metropole Pub (320 Abbott St), to operate until 4:00 a.m. on a daily basis.

While recent enforcement efforts under Task Force Barrage have resulted in measurable reductions in violent crime, the overall public safety environment in the area remains a significant concern. In 2025, there were 170 violent incidents within a one-block radius of Funky Winker Beans and 188 violent incidents within a one-block radius of New Brandiz Pub. These figures represent reductions from 2024 (39% and 14% respectively), but continue to reflect a persistently high level of violent activity in close proximity to licensed establishments.

Similarly, in 2025 there were 175 violent incidents within a one-block radius of the Metropole Pub (320 Abbott St), representing a 32% reduction from 2024 attributable in part to Task Force Barrage enforcement. Despite this reduction, the volume of violent incidents remains significant. At the individual premises level, violent incidents continue to occur. In 2025, there were five violent incidents reported at 320 Abbott St, compared to three in 2024. Additionally, there were three Breach of Peace files at the Metropole Pub in 2025. More recently, in January 2026, a female patron was punched in the head and spat on inside the bar following interactions with security at nearby pubs. This incident highlights the interconnected nature of disorder in this entertainment district, where the close proximity of multiple drinking establishments contributes to ongoing volatility.

Although violent incidents at specific establishments have shown some reductions, the broader Hastings Street corridor remains under sustained pressure. Carrall Street at Hastings Street and Main Street at Hastings Street continue to be among the highest areas for violent crime within the City of Vancouver, underscoring the wider environmental risk beyond individual establishments.

In 2025, within a one-block radius of Carrall Street and Hastings Street, there were 303 violent incidents, including 92 serious assaults, 19 robberies, 15 sexual assaults, 5 assaults against a police officer, 1 homicide, and 118 common assaults.

Within a one-block radius of Main Street and Hastings Street, there were 280 violent incidents in 2025, including 91 serious assaults, 27 robberies, 4 sexual assaults, 4 assaults against a police officer, and 114 common assaults.

These figures demonstrate a continued and elevated level of violent activity throughout the surrounding area, reinforcing concerns that extended late-night operating hours would increase exposure to violence for patrons, staff, nearby residents, and first responders.

In addition, intelligence reporting raises ongoing concerns. In 2025, New Brandiz Pub was the subject of six intelligence reports related to gang and drug activity inside the premises, supported by reports documenting recent gang and drug-related activity. These factors indicate an elevated risk profile that would be worsened by extended operating hours.

Calls for Service further reinforce this assessment. In 2025, there were 5,795 Calls for Service within one block of Funky Winker Beans and 6,030 Calls for Service within one block of New Brandiz Pub. These represent increases of 25% and 54% respectively compared to 2024.

In the one-block radius surrounding the Metropole Pub, there were 5,650 Calls for Service in 2025, representing a 28% increase from 2024. While this increase is partly attributable to proactive On-View calls generated by Task Force Barrage, it nonetheless demonstrates the substantial and ongoing demand placed on police resources in this immediate area.

At the individual premises level, Calls for Service have also increased or remained elevated. Funky Winker Beans recorded 119 Calls for Service in 2025, up from 98 in 2024, while New Brandiz Pub recorded 50 Calls for Service in 2025, up from 39 in 2024. The Metropole Pub recorded 64 Calls for Service in 2025, compared to 32 in 2024 representing a 100% increase year over year.

Extended daily operating hours until 4:00 a.m. would reasonably be expected to further increase calls, strain emergency services, and heighten risks to public safety, patrons, staff, and nearby residents.

An example of violent incidents directly related to patrons leaving licensed establishments during early morning hours can be found in Vancouver Police Department file 2026-10742. On January 18, 2026, at 0253 hours, Vancouver Police received a report of an assault in the area of Abbott Street and West Hastings Street. Witnesses and the victim stated that upon leaving a bar, they were accosted by an unknown female, later identified. As the group walked away, accused female slashed one of them in the shoulder with a large knife. Upon police arrival, accused fled and dropped the knife. Members deployed a CEW and accused was arrested. Charges of assault with a weapon and assault causing bodily harm have been sworn.

Given the continued concentration of violent crime across the Hastings Street corridor and surrounding blocks, including the Abbott Street area, the significant volume of Calls for Service, the documented increase in police demand at specific premises, and the presence of intelligence indicating gang and drug-related activity, approving daily 4:00 a.m. operating hours would be inconsistent with public safety objectives and responsible licensing practices. While progress has been made through targeted enforcement, conditions have not stabilized to a degree that would support extended hours without undue risk.

Further, current staffing levels within the Vancouver Police Department do not support an expansion of late-night operating hours in this area. The Hastings Street corridor already requires sustained and resource-intensive policing to address violent crime, disorder, gang activity, and high call volumes. Existing patrol resources are committed to managing current demand, including proactive enforcement initiatives such as Task Force Barrage. Extending licensed hours to 4:00 a.m. on a daily basis would reasonably be expected to increase calls for service, incidents requiring police attendance, and late-night disorder, without corresponding increases in available staffing. Approving extended hours under present staffing conditions would place additional strain on frontline officers and reduce the Department's ability to respond effectively to emergent public safety concerns elsewhere in the city.

For these reasons, the request for bars in this area to remain open until 4:00 a.m. every day is denied at this time. This decision may be reconsidered should sustained, long-term improvements in public safety be demonstrated and verified through future data and assessments.

Deepak Sood

Constable 2748 Deepak Sood

Liquor Coordinator

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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