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Council Policy

Liquor Licensing Policy & Procedures

APPROVED February 21, 2011

RESOLUTION: R710/15/09/14
REPLACING: R170/11/02/21; Council Policy No. 315
DATE OF LAST REVIEW: August 2015

A. BACKGROUND

The Provincial Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) regulates the licensing of all liquor establishments and the retail sale of alcohol in British Columbia. City of Kelowna Municipal Council is referred on a number of these applications, including Liquor Primary applications, and other license endorsements. Local government comment is a key component of the LCLB's licensing decisions.

Council recognizes the importance of public entertainment venues, including liquor establishments, as a component of all vibrant cities. Managing the priorities of all community stakeholders is a delicate balance. As part of Council's ongoing interest in establishing vibrant, livable Urban Centres, a 2003 report from the Mayor's Entertainment District Task Force was endorsed, relating to liquor licensing policy. The relevant policy from this 2003 report was adopted in former Council Policy #315 – "Liquor Licensing Procedures Liquor Primary (lp) and Retail Liquor Sales (rls)". At Council's request, a new review was completed by City staff in 2010. This new policy summarizes the pertinent policies endorsed in the Liquor Policy Review (2010), and is intended to guide future liquor license applications – including Provincial referral requests and rezoning applications on a City-wide basis.

B. LIQUOR PRIMARY (LP) ESTABLISHMENTS

In consideration of new, expanded or relocated Liquor Primary Establishments (cabarets/nightclubs, pubs, lounges), the following guidelines should be considered (see table below):

1. Siting/Density Guidelines:

- a) No establishment with a person capacity greater than 500 persons should be permitted.
- b) Large establishments (with person capacity greater than 249 persons):
 - i) Should only be located within an Urban Centre.
 - ii) Should be located a minimum of 250m from another Large establishment.
 - iii) Should be located a minimum of 100m from a Medium establishment.
 - iv) Should not be located beside a Small establishment.
- c) Medium establishments (with person capacity between 100-249 persons):
 - i) Should only be located within an Urban or Village Centre.
 - ii) Should be located a minimum of 100m from a Large or Medium establishment.
 - iii) Should not be located beside a Small establishment.
- d) Small establishments (with person capacity less than 100 persons):
 - i) Should not be located beside another liquor primary establishment.

The above siting guidelines are summarized in the following table:

Establishment Type	Siting requirements from:			Location
	Small (<100 persons)	Medium (100-249 persons)	Large (250+ persons)	
Small (<100 persons)	Not beside.	Not beside	Not beside	City-wide
Medium (100-249 persons)	Not beside	Minimum 100m separation	Minimum 100m separation	Urban or Village Centre
Large (250+ persons)	Not beside	Minimum 100m separation	Minimum 250m separation	Only Urban Centre

For the purposes of determining proximity, shortest walking distance (door-to-door) will be applied. These distances are meant to guide staff in their recommendations for particular applications, however, a number of other factors should be considered, including (but not limited to):

- a) Pertinent input from the RCMP;
- b) Vehicular and pedestrian traffic patterns for area and current zoning;
- c) Availability of on-site and off-site parking; proximity of playgrounds, schools, and other social facilities;
- d) Surrounding land-uses, and general impact on the local neighbourhood;
- e) Correspondence received from abutting property owners;
- f) Past licensee compliance and performance issues as may be provided by the LCLB.

2. Other Policies:

- a) New patios associated with liquor establishments should be located and designed to limit potential impacts on surrounding property owners.
- b) Where appropriate, support alternative entertainment options, and/or establishments which are less focused on alcohol consumption (including event-driven establishments, and Food Primary establishments with the Patron Participation Entertainment Endorsement) to add a mix of entertainment options in Urban Centres. Consider limiting potential community impacts via license terms and conditions (hours, capacity, etc)

C. RETAIL LIQUOR SALES (RLS)

The following considerations should be made for the location of liquor stores/retail liquor sales (RLS):

- a) Continue to require new or relocated RLS establishments to apply for a rezoning application to allow for "Retail Liquor Sales" in applicable zones.
- b) No Retail Liquor Sales shall be approved for (in conjunction with) Liquor Primary Establishments with person capacity that exceed 150 persons.
- c) Any new or relocated Retail Liquor Sales establishment shall not be located within 300 m of an existing Liquor Primary establishment with a person capacity greater than 350 persons.

D. NEW LICENSES AND PERMANENT LICENSE CHANGES

Permanent License Changes requiring local government comment (new, expanded or amended Liquor Primary licenses, Food Primary licenses operating later than midnight, Patron Participation Entertainment endorsement, winery lounge/special event area endorsements, etc):

1. Application & Submission Requirements:

- a) Applicants are encouraged to conduct a pre-application meeting with the Community Planning and Real Estate Department to discuss application process and submission requirements.
- b) Applicant must submit a City of Kelowna Liquor License Application in order to receive Council resolution.
- c) Applicant must show proof of application to the LCLB prior to municipal consideration.
- d) If approval is required by the Agricultural Land Commission, this must be addressed prior to City application.
- e) Proof of consultation with pertinent Business Improvement Association, Industry Association, and/or Resident's Association is required.
- f) It is suggested that applicants consider hosting a neighbourhood information meeting to provide an informal opportunity to discuss and resolve any potential neighbourhood concerns with the proposal prior to Council consideration.
- g) Amendments to submission requirements are at the discretion of the Director of Community Planning and Real Estate.

2. Municipal Review Process:

- a) Upon submission, staff will circulate the application to pertinent departments and agencies, prior to a staff report being presented to Council.
- b) Applications will be subject to a public meeting (or a Public Hearing where the application is being considered concurrently with a rezoning application). The applicant is responsible to the costs of advertising for the public meeting (see notification requirements below).
- c) The Community Planning and Real Estate Department shall make a recommendation to Municipal Council regarding the proposal. Council shall make its decision based on this recommendation as well as the information received at the Public Hearing or Public Meeting.

- d) The resolution from Municipal Council is then forwarded to the LCLB by the Community Planning Department for their final review.

3. Notification Requirements:

- a) Signage – the applicant is to ensure a City-approved development sign is posted on the property at least ten days prior to the public meeting date. ~~Signs are to be purchased at City Hall.~~
- b) Public Notice – the Office of the City Clerk will:
- o Deliver notice of the application to owners and occupiers to a 50m (or minimum 4 properties, whichever is greater) buffer a minimum of 10 days prior to the public meeting; and
 - o Place newspaper advertisements in at least two consecutive issues with the last publication to appear not less than three and not more than ten days before the public meeting; and
 - o Circulate correspondence received within the notification period to Council, and make available to the applicant and members of the public, prior to the meeting.

~~An informational notice will also be delivered to properties in the same general postal delivery route area by Canada Post a/c mail. Newspaper advertisements will be placed in at least two consecutive issues, with the last publication to appear not less than three and not more than ten days before the Public Hearing or Public Meeting. Notification is coordinated by the Office of the City Clerk.~~

E. TEMPORARY LICENSE CHANGES

Temporary license changes may be considered by the Community Planning Manager or designate. Temporary Changes will only be considered by Council should the applicant wish to appeal the decision of the Divisional Director Community Planning and Real Estate.

Where appropriate, temporary changes are reviewed with the RCMP, Fire Department, Building and Permitting Department, and the local liquor inspector.

Staff may consider up to six temporary license changes per calendar year for Liquor Primary establishments that are members in good standing of the bar owners association known as “The Standard”, including late closing requests. These requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and will be subject to additional policing costs being paid prior to the event (for example, 4:00am closings). Any establishment that generates concerns or complaints as a result of the use of temporary changes or through general operations of their establishment will have their temporary changes reduced to 3 for the first incident and 0 for any subsequent incidents as the discretion of the RCMP and Liquor Licensing Inspector.

F. SPECIAL OCCASION LICENSE

The following considerations should be applied to Special Occasion License requests:

- a) SOL requests that require RCMP/Local Government consideration will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.
- b) Review of SOL requests will include review of a number of factors, including (but not limited to) location, capacity, hours of operation, previous compliance, and impact on surrounding neighbours.
- c) SOL requests are intended to be for infrequent events, and are not to be used as a substitute for a permanent liquor license at a venue. Attention will be given to the number of SOL requests made in a given time period at one property.
- d) The RCMP have the authority to place additional restrictions on SOL's should they have public safety concerns associated with the event.
- e) No SOL's are to be granted where the proposed event is intended to cater to youth or where youth (under the age of 19) will be present.
- f) SOL licensees are to retain qualified private security personnel to monitor access to and from licensed events, where requested.
- g) All SOL events must respect the City of Kelowna Noise Bylaw.

REASON FOR POLICY

To establish revised policy and procedures for processing liquor license applications.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Liquor Control & Licensing Act

PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

As outlined in the Liquor Policy Review Final Report.