

Report to Council



Date: May 25, 2020
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Changes to Liquor Licensing Application Process
Department: Development Planning

Recommendation:

That Council rescind the direction to opt-out of providing local government input to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch on liquor license applications;

AND THAT Bylaw No. 12048, being Amendment No. 7 to the Development Applications Procedures Bylaw No. 10540, be forwarded for reading consideration.

Purpose:

To temporarily delegate Council's authority for local government input on liquor license applications to the Divisional Director of Planning and Development Services.

Background:

On March 23, 2020 Council adopted a series of delegations and process changes in order to streamline operations at the outset of the COVID-19 crisis. Since this time, staff have discovered that one of these changes as not having the desired effect.

Staff requested that Council "opt-out" of providing feedback to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) on applications for new and change to liquor license applications. Subsequently, staff have discovered that this is causing delays for applicants because the LCRB is not able to complete their own engagement process for liquor license applications.

Discussion:

In order to facilitate the timely review of liquor license applications and provide resolutions to the provincial government; staff are proposing that Council delegate the authority for providing resolutions to the LCRB to the Divisional Director of Planning and Development Services. This delegation is proposed only on a temporary basis. This temporary delegation can be accomplished through an amendment to the Development Applications Procedures Bylaw. The proposed change to that bylaw is as follows:

2.3.6 Temporary Delegation of Authority

Pursuant to Section 154(1)(b) of the Community Charter, Council delegates to the Divisional Director of Planning and Development Services:

e) the powers of Council to gather the views of residents and provide local government input to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch on liquor license applications that do not contravene the public interest and are consistent with Council policy No. 359.

This may include requests for temporary restaurant patio license expansions depending on the scope of process changes from the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.

Staff would take the following steps to ensure proper reviews occur:

- Review proposals against existing policy contained in Council Policy 359 Liquor Licensing Policy and Procedures.
- Circulate notice of proposed changes to adjacent neighbors for comment.
- Forward applications that are inconsistent with Council Policy 359 or that generate a high degrees of neighbor concern to Council.
- Temporary changes for the purposes of patio expansions will not require neighbor consultation.

Conclusion:

The proposed changes to the Development Application Procedures bylaw allowing temporary delegation of the liquor license resolution process will help speed up application processing for applicants. Applications inconsistent with City policy will be forwarded to Council with a staff recommendation for consideration.

Considerations applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority: Liquor Control and Licensing Act, Section 11

Existing Policy: Council Policy 359

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Internal Circulation:

Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

Submitted by:

Ryan Smith, Divisional Director of Planning and Development Services

Approved for inclusion:



cc: Manager, Development Planning (TB)