

June 29, 2017

LIQUOR POLICY CHANGES 2017

The purpose of this notice is to clarify the process and schedule for implementation of liquor related policy and by-law changes approved by Council on June 14, 2017.

This notice also announces the formation of the Granville Entertainment District (GED) Safety and Security Working Group which will hold its first meeting on July 18th, 2017.

On June 14th, 2017 Council approved changes to liquor policy that affect liquor service and retail establishments, and liquor manufacturers. Some of these changes are in effect immediately while others have an implementation date to be determined. The table below shows the policy changes and the date on which the policy becomes effective. Please note that although a policy is effective immediately, city policy documents may not yet reflect the change; staff will be updating policy documents and posting them to the website in the coming months. In the meantime, the policy is in effect as of the date listed.

If you own or operate a liquor establishment and policy changes affect you, you may need to make changes to your provincial liquor licence or your development permit. Please see the [website](#)¹ for notices, for further detail on policy implementation and how to comply with or take advantage of changes that apply to your business. Contact the City's 3-1-1 information line if you have questions.

Working Group on Safety and Security in the Granville Entertainment District (GED)

The Granville Entertainment District and Granville Street are subject to new policies, including implementation of a pilot last entry hour program. To assist with policy implementation and to collaborate on strategies and tactics to reduce disorderliness and crime in the GED, particularly in the evenings, the City has convened the GED Safety and Security Working Group. The group includes representatives from Downtown Business Improvement Association, Granville Street business owners (bars, restaurants, property owners), Vancouver Coastal Health, Vancouver Police Department, Barwatch, Music BC, and the provincial Liquor Control and Licensing Branch and COV. The Group will hold its first meeting on July 18th, 2017.

¹ City website with information for liquor serving establishments: <http://vancouver.ca/doing-business/liquor-serving-establishments.aspx>

Table 1 Liquor policy changes in 2017²

	Liquor Policy Recommendations adopted by Council June 14, 2017	Effective Date
A.	Downtown Eastside	
1	Retain the Downtown Eastside moratorium on liquor primary licence and seat expansion with minor modifications as described in the Staff report. (See the staff report to Council: http://council.vancouver.ca/20170614/documents/cfsc4.pdf)	June 14, 2017
2	Amend the Liquor Store Guidelines such that: No additional liquor stores are allowed in the Downtown Eastside; existing liquor stores may expand or relocate within the Downtown Eastside; and relocation should not result in more than one store in Strathcona, and one in the combined sub-areas of Gastown, Victory Square, Industrial, Chinatown and Thornton Park.	June 14, 2017
B.	Granville Entertainment District	
1	Amend the Granville Entertainment District moratorium on conversion of food primary to liquor primary seats to include a moratorium on any additional liquor primary seats for Granville Street (West Georgia to Drake Streets), with limited exceptions for: Live performance venues; seat relocations; and opportunities to find creative solutions for net seat reductions in the GED.	To be announced post discussion at GED Working Group
2	Amend the Liquor Store Guidelines to disallow additional liquor stores on Granville Street and the immediately surrounding area of the Granville Entertainment District. Set the boundary to not within 150m of the Granville Street centreline, between West Georgia and Drake	To be announced post discussion at GED Working Group
3	Annually, all clubs and bars in the Granville Entertainment District provide updated Patron Management plans to the City.	To be announced post discussion at GED Working Group
4	Increase enforcement and ticketing at Granville Entertainment District establishments for non-compliance of patron queues.	To be announced post discussion at GED Working Group
5	Institute a “last entry” hour pilot program from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, requiring all Granville Entertainment District liquor primary establishments to restrict entry to new patrons within 1 hour of closing time.	To be announced post discussion at GED Working Group
6	Direct staff to establish a working group of key stakeholders in the Granville Entertainment District, including local bars and restaurants, Bar Watch, the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Coastal Health and community organizations, including women's organizations, to improve consultation and co-ordination of efforts to reduce street disorder and gender-based violence, and to improve business in the area.	Working Group established June 28 th , 2017.
7	Applications for patio liquor licences or seat relocations from inside an to a patio should not be supported at liquor primary establishments located on Granville Street between West Georgia and Drake streets until such time as the Granville Entertainment District crime rates reduce and/or there is a diversification of establishments and patrons.	Per Council direction, this recommendation is to be considered by GED Working Group on Safety

² (See the staff report to Council here: <http://council.vancouver.ca/20170614/documents/cfsc4.pdf> and the meeting minutes here: <http://council.vancouver.ca/20170614/documents/cfsc20170614min.pdf>)

8	Refer evaluation of the pilot program as set out in 5 above to the working group, with an interim report back on its effectiveness after six months.	Referred to Working Group on Safety
9	Direct staff to delay any increase in capacity or service hours in the Granville Entertainment District until they are satisfied that night transit service has increased to an appropriate level.	Referred to Working Group on Safety
10	Direct staff to bring revised recommendations regarding the Granville Entertainment District to Council by the end of the third quarter, 2017.	Referred to Working Group on Safety
C.	Expand General Public Health Interventions	
1	Amend License By-law to require liquor serving establishments to display drink size and strength on their menu for all types of alcoholic drinks.	Fall 2017 - date to be announced
2	Encourage liquor serving establishments to offer standard drink sizes.	June 14, 2017
3	Encourage liquor primary establishments to offer low strength drink options to patrons, and to provide free soft drinks to designated drivers.	June 14, 2017
4	In partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health, request that the provincial government establish and fund liquor-wise education with specific attention to under-age drinking and binge drinking.	June 14, 2017
5	In partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health, seek opportunities to collaborate with and support partner organizations in ongoing initiatives such as campaigns to encourage responsible public behaviour; and programs like the Vancouver School Board's School Age Children and Youth Substance Use Health Program.	June 14, 2017
6	Staff consider the benefits and impacts of restricting liquor advertising on City-owned property and update policies accordingly.	June 14, 2017
7	Request that Vancouver Coastal Health examine opportunities to expand the availability of managed drinking programs targeted at harm reduction among chronic alcoholics who are illicit drinkers.	June 14, 2017
8	Increase inspection frequency by City Property Use Inspectors, which will include inspections during weekend and peak operating hours.	June 14, 2017
9	Direct the Chief Licence Inspector to reconvene the multi-agency inspection teams; and seek commitments from the Province to increase provincial liquor inspector resources.	June 14, 2017
D.	Allow Liquor Sales in Select Non-traditional Businesses	
1	Support liquor primary applications (to the Province) from arts and culture based establishments, whose primary activity is the provision, sale or exhibition of art and/or cultural artifacts.	Fall 2017 - date to be announced
2	Amend the Licence By-law to create the necessary liquor establishment licence in Vancouver.	Fall 2017 - date to be announced
E.	Enhance Patio Culture	
1	Remove the twenty percent limit on liquor primary patio seats, if a Good Neighbour Agreement is signed, neighbourhood liquor seat limitations can be met, and community impacts (e.g. noise) are managed; however, existing liquor primary establishment patios in the Granville Entertainment District, and in the Downtown Eastside will not be approved for increased patio seats.	June 14, 2017
2	Establish a guideline to exempt up to 12 additional seats on seasonal patios from the washroom provision standard in cases where the establishment provides a minimum of two washrooms.	June 14, 2017
F.	Expand Live Entertainment in Restaurants	

1	Allow live entertainment in restaurants during all hours of liquor service.	July 25, 2017
2	Amend the Non-alcoholic Dance Hall Policy to allow this land use on zoning-compliant sites in the entire Downtown area.	June 14, 2017
G. Support Liquor Manufacturers		
1	Allow manufacturers' lounges in industrial districts to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate until midnight and establish these hours in the Business Premises Regulation of Hours By-law; and • Apply for extended hours for special occasions up to six times per year. 	June 14, 2017
2	Allow manufacturers' lounges to expand their seating capacity during area-wide cultural events on an occasional basis.	June 14, 2017
3	Allow artisans' markets to host up to three manufacturers selling and sampling their products.	June 14, 2017
H. Support Liquor in Grocery Stores		
1	Allow grocery stores to operate the store-in-store model for liquor sales, provided that they meet the City's current Liquor Store Guidelines and provincial design specifications.	June 14, 2017
I. Formalize Restaurants that Operate as Bars in Evening Hours		
1	Support applications from existing food primary establishments to operate under liquor primary licences after 10:00 pm, provided that they meet the City's existing procedural and policy standards for liquor primary establishments, including current liquor primary distancing criteria. Note: Except food primary establishments in the Downtown Eastside and Granville Entertainment District, in alignment with moratorium on new liquor primary licences in those areas.	Fall 2017 – date to be announced
2	Support restaurants with an established track record of good business operation (no history of noise complaints) who obtain an evening hours liquor primary licence be allowed to apply for extended hours after three months.	Fall 2017 – date to be announced
J. Streamline and Clarify Procedures		
1	Shorten the probationary period for liquor service hours for new food primary establishments to three months from six in cases where the operator has an established track record of adherence to by-laws and terms and conditions of their business licence.	June 14, 2017
2	Issue up to six approvals for liquor primary establishment hours extensions at one time, provided that the establishment has a track record of problem-free operations and adherence to by-laws and terms and conditions of their business licence. The hours extensions requested must fall within the calendar year of the application.	June 14, 2017
3	Amend the Licence By-law to give the Chief Licence Inspector authority to provide comment to the LCLB on applications for all liquor licence amendments.	July 25, 2017
4	Consolidate all liquor policies into a comprehensive, consistent and clear resource available online. Review and amend existing liquor policies to ensure that they are current and understandable by a broad audience of users	Date to be announced