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Subject: Patio permitting - update

Good afternoon Mayor and Council,

This update is to describe the next steps in developing an expedited patio process and overall approach to support immediate business needs, following the recently endorsed *Flexible, Innovative and Expedited Patio Permitting* Notice of Motion.

Considering the time sensitivities, staff are rapidly developing an expedited patio renewal process, a temporary patio application kit, assessing how we can quickly create more public space in commercial areas to support physical distancing requirements, and looking at other ways our public space can support public life and local businesses in a recovery period.

Individual businesses and Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) have been reaching out to staff eagerly looking for information on how to move forward and staff will seek to provide an update to them in the next day.

Patios

Staff are developing an expedited temporary patio process to support restaurants and cafes with physically distanced seating opportunities. This will include creating a "Temporary Patio Application Kit" which will allow for expedited review and approval. Additional information will be available shortly and staff anticipate beginning to **accept applications for temporary patios within 2 weeks**. Staff are targeting approval within two business days for those applications that meet the requirements of the expedited patio process. The application kit will be informed by the recently released Provincial guidelines for restaurant patios, which includes specific regulations for spacing and other uses. Please note that we are awaiting additional information regarding the Province's approach to liquor licensing for patios; we will provide a further update as we understand the implications for the City and operators.

Businesses with existing patios are encouraged to complete the necessary steps to renew their annual patio permit so that their patio is ready for use.

Temporary public spaces

In addition to expedited processes for patios, staff will be working with BIAs to quickly create new, temporary public spaces to support physical distancing, for modified businesses operations and public life. BIAs and business leaders will play a key role in helping to identify viable locations that have strong support from the local businesses, and will partner with the City on the delivery and stewardship of these new spaces. These spaces could support a variety of public life and business needs including queuing, common-style eating spaces to support different takeout or quick service restaurants and cafes, and other creative public uses in neighbourhoods and commercial districts. Staff will be reaching out to BIAs and business leaders in the coming days to understand the priorities within each neighbourhood, allowing staff to quickly assess and advance new public space ideas.

Staff are developing clear processes to move forward with the expected high volume of requests, and will have the instructions and overall content available online within 2 weeks.

Staff will continue to share information over the coming days and weeks with the businesses and residents. These needs are urgent, and in order to move quickly, staff will rely on the City's strong partnerships with the business community.

If you have any immediate questions, please let me know.

Best,

Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.