

From: **"Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>**
To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**
Date: 9/29/2023 10:26:25 AM
Subject: Memo - Hospitality Sector Working Group
Attachments: Memo to Mayor & Council - Hospitality Sector Working Group.pdf

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Andrea Law, General Manager of Development, Buildings and Licensing, which provides an update on the progress of the Hospitality Sector Working Group . This memo provides information on the following:

- The Working Group brings together representatives from industry and City, to find innovative solutions to removing barriers and fostering the growth of the city's hospitality sector.
- The Working Group has identified several priorities to be considered to streamline processes and enhance support for local businesses;
- Within 3 months of the Working Group inception, DBL has promptly implemented certain process changes based on the Working Group's recommendations;
- While there has been some success, there is still ongoing long-term priorities to be addressed.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Law at andrea.law@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Snw̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

MEMORANDUM

September 28, 2023

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC
Rosemary Hagiwara, Acting City Clerk
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office
Trevor Ford, Interim Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office

FROM: Andrea Law
General Manager, Development, Buildings and Licensing

SUBJECT: Hospitality Sector Working Group

RTS #: N/A

This memo is intended to provide information on the progress of the Hospitality Sector Working Group.

In July 2023, DBL launched the Hospitality Sector Working Group, bringing together representatives from industry and City to explore ways to remove barriers, promote innovation, and help local businesses thrive.

Priorities

In collaboration with the working group, DBL is actively exploring innovative solutions to enrich Vancouver's hospitality scene. Priorities identified by the working group include:

- Consider ways to further improve licensing timelines.
- Review the City's year-round patio program.
- Evaluate options to simplify regulations related to lounges at breweries and distilleries.
- Explore ways to streamline approvals for Fire occupancy permits.
- Identify opportunities to streamline provincial and municipal liquor-licensing timelines.

Achievements

DBL has already implemented process changes based on the recommendations of the working group to enhance the efficiency of permitting and licensing reviews. These changes reflect our commitment to simplifying processes and supporting local businesses.

Process	Challenge	Solution
Liquor Primary	Sequential approach to process creates delays for permit and licensing timelines for new and existing bars and cabarets	Once approved by Council permit and licensing applications can now be submitted together and reviewed concurrently
Dual Licensing	New restaurants wanting to establish dual licensing are required to get their restaurant approval in place before moving to the next step	Developed a new process for dual licenses to provide more clarity for applicants and speed up permit and license reviews
Occupant Load	Timing and requirements for Fire occupancy load reviews were creating process and final occupancy delays	Collaborated with Fire to move the occupant load review ahead in the process and better align the steps to occupancy

Long Term Actions

While there has been notable successes, DBL acknowledges that there is still significant work to be accomplished. The upcoming actions will encompass more intricate, long-term priorities:

- Developing options to update the City’s policy and guidelines on Liquor Establishment location and distancing is slated for Q4 2024. Options shared with key stakeholders include:
 - Reducing or removing distance requirements for Liquor Establishments to create flexibility and increase opportunity for new and existing businesses,
 - Increasing maximum person capacity of smaller licence classes to improve financial viability, and to support small establishments seeking to provide live entertainment,
 - Reduce or remove the Granville Entertainment District and Downtown Eastside moratoria to create opportunities for new establishments and increase vibrancy in the area,
 - Expansion of the Chief Licence Inspector’s authority to approve liquor primary & dual applications.
- Pursuing an interim approach to ensure consistency on calculations of the 80m2 lounge/tasting area.
- Identifying opportunities to streamline provincial and municipal liquor-licensing timelines.
- Reviewing the year-round patio program.
- Reviewing requirements for public notification and costs.
- Reviewing washroom triggers.

DBL will provide progress updates about the projects the working group will be involved in through a new designated web page and periodic industry memos.

Together with the working group and other City departments, DBL is committed to finding practical solutions to challenges faced by businesses in the hospitality sector. In the three months since its establishment, the working group has already proven instrumental in creating tangible change.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Andrea Law
General Manager, Development, Buildings and Licensing
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