

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**

To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**

Date: 2024-05-24 5:21:43 PM

Subject: Memo - Monitoring and report back related to liquor establishment policy changes

Attachments: Memo to Mayor & Council - Liquor Monitoring.pdf

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Dear Mayor and Council,

For your information, attached is a memo providing an update on the request for staff to monitor and report back on the impact of recent liquor policy changes.

This memo provides a summary of the main findings from stakeholders, including the challenges we heard around monitoring, and highlights the City's existing work that aligns with the areas outlined in the resolution.

Please feel free to contact me or Corrie Okell if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Best,  
Paul

**Paul Mochrie** (he/him)  
City Manager  
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

## MEMORANDUM

May 24, 2024

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Paul Mochrie, City Manager  
Armin Amrolia, Deputy City Manager  
Karen Levitt, Deputy City Manager  
Sandra Singh, Deputy City Manager  
Katrina Leckovic, City Clerk  
Maria Pontikis, Chief Communications Officer, CEC  
Teresa Jong, Administration Services Manager, City Manager's Office  
Mellisa Morphy, Director of Policy, Mayor's Office  
Trevor Ford, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office  
Margaret Wittgens, General Manager, Arts, Culture and Community Services  
Lon LaClaire, General Manager Engineering Services  
Josh White, General Manager, Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability

FROM: Corrie Okell, General Manager, Development, Buildings and Licensing

SUBJECT: Monitoring and report back related to liquor establishment policy changes

RTS #: 016135, 016134, 016133

On [December 13, 2023](#) Council approved amendments (see Appendix A) to modernize the City's regulatory framework for liquor establishments and directed staff to monitor and report back on the impacts of the policy changes on public health and safety in Vancouver and in the DEOD specifically. The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on this work. Staff consulted with Vancouver Coastal Health, the Vancouver Police Department, Good Night Out Non-Profit Society and relevant City departments. The consultation led to unanimous consensus that isolating the impact of one policy change in an area of complex and intersecting issues was not possible, including:

- 1. Correlation of impact to policy changes:** Stakeholders provided a clear message that the correlation between the removal of the moratorium and extended liquor establishment hours would be difficult to assign to one variable. There is a long history of complex alcohol-related health needs in the DEOD that are closely integrated. Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) expressed the complexity of attributing any alcohol-related changes, exclusive of other influences and effects, to the policy.

2. **Data collection and evaluation metrics:** Underreporting was highlighted as a significant limitation to provide full scope of any impacts as a result of policy changes. The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) and VCH stated that alcohol involvement may not always be captured in reporting. Additionally, some datasets have a lag time of over two years prior to being received by VCH. Good Night Out publishes monthly data on their interactions, this data is predominantly observational. Staff also heard from organizations working with women, gender-diverse, and street-entrenched populations that many clients that have disclosed incidents of sexual assault and violence have not reported the incident to police.
3. **Monitoring of Liquor Establishments through Licensing:** The Licensing Office will monitor complaints, issues and community impacts of liquor establishments, including number and size, on an ongoing basis as new and existing establishment adapt to the new opportunities available created under this policy change.
4. **Late-night transportation services:** In addition to taxis which have long-served people returning home late at night, the introduction of ride-hailing has increased the availability of options for late-night travel. Engineering Services is frequently in discussions with TransLink on transportation needs in Vancouver, including the expansion of late-night transit services. TransLink has expressed the need for additional funding to support the addition of new night bus routes or to increase frequency of existing bus routes. The Mayor's Council [Access for Everyone Plan](#) highlights the need for significantly increased bus service across the region, including late night services. The 2024 Investment Plan includes some limited funding for additional evening service.

In 2019 TransLink released a [report](#) on late-night services, outlining the impacts of extending and expanding transportation options. SkyTrain requires gaps in the service in order to maintain track and vehicles - the study determined that extended SkyTrain hours on Friday and Saturday would require Skytrain to close one hour early Sunday through Thursday to meet operational maintenance needs, impacting 900,000 riders compared to 700,000 who may use during increased hours on weekends. Ridership data is regularly provided to Engineering to inform existing projects and work.

5. **Existing work in the DEOD and surrounding area:** There are a variety of City projects underway (see Appendix B) in the DTES that aim to help mitigate and manage public health and safety issues. Several of these are engagement and consultation projects focused in the DEOD and surrounding areas that involve gaining community and service provider perspectives on a wide range of issues. This provides staff opportunities to utilize these existing projects to avoid duplicating efforts and over burdening stakeholders, and it supports fiscal prudence by using existing mechanisms to achieve desired outcomes. Staff also work with Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) to provide programs and services to support the City's most equity-deserving communities through direct service and grants to NPOs and community organizations. ACCS Social Policy, with support from BPPS, will engage with stakeholders to identify and monitor these issues in community as part of their ongoing work.

Staff will continue to monitor the DEOD and surrounding areas for community impacts and complaints through their respective projects and priorities. This provides staff a fulsome picture of the combined impacts of all policy changes, including the liquor establishment amendments. Staff will report back to Council with recommendations to mitigate any negative health and safety impacts related to these policy changes through existing projects such as the Granville Plan, the upcoming washroom strategy, Healthy City Strategy and the UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces initiative.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sarah Hicks, Chief Licence Inspector, at [sarah.hicks@vancouver.ca](mailto:sarah.hicks@vancouver.ca) or 604-873-7546.



Corrie Okell  
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## APPENDIX A

### Council amendments to the [Policy and By-law Updates to Regulation of Liquor Establishments Including Distance Requirements \(December 13, 2023\)](#) Report

#### Select Recommendations from the Final Resolution as approved

- J. THAT Council direct staff to engage with relevant stakeholders in the DEOD with respect to the impacts of the above changes, including impacts on vulnerable populations and the services they rely on, transportation availability, and impacts on existing establishments as it relates to affordability, and report back in Q1 2025.
- K. THAT Council direct staff to work with Vancouver Coastal Health, the Vancouver Police Department, Good Night Out and other community partners to monitor and report back on the impacts of these policy changes on public health and safety;

FURTHER THAT Council direct staff report back with recommendations to mitigate negative health and safety impacts related to these policy changes, including but not limited to:

- a) Engaging with TransLink about extending public transportation access and hours to match extended liquor establishment hours and reporting back on recommended service improvements.
- b) Bringing back policy and funding recommendations for addressing sexual assault and gender-based violence related to increased access to alcohol.
- c) Include recommendations in the upcoming public washroom strategy to prevent an increase in public urination and defecation related to increased consumption of alcohol.

## APPENDIX B

### Related Initiatives/Projects and Council Motions in the DEOD and surrounding area

<i>Department</i>	<i>Initiative/Project</i>
ACCS	Mental health services enhancements with Vancouver Coastal Health and Vancouver Police Department crisis interventions on mental health issues.
	<a href="#">Nighttime Economy Strategy (2029 May 28)</a> : Council directed staff to work with relevant stakeholders to develop recommendations for a comprehensive citywide strategy, one that encompasses all aspects of the Nighttime Economy and serves to focus the range of necessary actions required by Council and the City to remove obstacles and impediments to realizing economic potential in consultation with all appropriate stakeholders.
	<a href="#">MMIWG2S Response Report (July 19, 2022)</a> : City of Vancouver's response to the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice and Red Women Rising Report Recommendations.
	<a href="#">St Paul's Hospital and health campus planning program</a> : Staff are working with Providence Health Care in the planning and redevelopment on the hospital. This includes a planning, rezoning and development process. This project is co-led with PDS.
	<a href="#">Indigenous Healing and Wellness Grants</a> : As a City of Reconciliation, this program supports Elders and Knowledge Keepers who provide traditional, spiritual, or cultural healing and wellness activities in Vancouver's urban Indigenous community.
	<a href="#">UN Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces</a> : Vancouver is one of six Canadian cities a part of the global initiative to address gender-based and sexualised violence and harassment by focusing on the City's policies, planning programs and services and how they can be changed and applied to increase safety and build safer public spaces.
BPPS	<a href="#">Water and Washrooms as a Human Right (2020 March)</a> : In response to a Council Motion, staff are preparing a strategy, including recommendations, to guide the planning, building and operations of water and sanitation services in Vancouver. This project is support by ACCS and ENG.
ENG	<a href="#">Gastown Public Spaces Plan</a> : Council motions staff to develop a plan with opportunities and recommendations to establish a vibrant, people focused Gastown, seasonally pedestrianize Water Street, improve street networks, advance reconciliation and evolve and deepen the unique heritage of the area.
	<a href="#">Public Transit</a> : Vancouver is served by a network of fast and frequent travel options that allow the public to leave their car behind to reach their destination. There is ongoing work with TransLink to create a network of bus services and rapid transit system that meets the changing needs of travellers. This includes the Broadway Subway Project and the <a href="#">Transportation 2024 Plan</a> .
PDS	<a href="#">Chinatown Transformation</a> : Council has directed staff to partner with community representatives and stakeholders to support the revitalization of Chinatown, including buildings, public spaces and living heritage. This project

	<p>is co-led with ACCS and the Legacy Stewardship Group (comprised of community representatives and stakeholders)</p>
	<p><a href="#">Granville Street Planning Program (2023 January 31)</a>: Council gave direction to staff to engage and work with residents, stakeholders and other City departments in developing a new vision for Granville Street, as an exciting, welcoming, safe and inclusive downtown destination.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Uplifting the DTES and Building Inclusive Communities that Work for All Residents (2023 November 29)</a>: Council motioned staff to report back on opportunities and recommendations in pursuit of a greater supply of higher quality social and supportive housing in Vancouver. Council supported the City's social and supportive housing strategies. This project is co-led with ACCS.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Balmoral Hotel Demolition</a>. In February 2022 an order to demolish was issued. Staff are conducting studies to determine the most appropriate approach to safely demolish the building. This project also supported by DBL and ACCS.</p>
	<p><a href="#">Special Enterprise program</a>. A 5-year pilot that aims to preserve and strengthen the cultural diversity, long-term viability, and economic opportunity of heritage businesses, social enterprise, and non-profit organizations in Chinatown and the Downtown Eastside.</p>

\*This list is non-exhaustive