

File No.: 2026-101

March 24, 2026

s.22(1)

Dear s.22(1)

Re: **Request for Access to Records under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the "Act")**

I am responding to your request of January 28, 2026 under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for:

1. All emails related to enhanced inspections of arts and culture venues and/or events, unlicensed venues and/or events, or high risk venues and/or events in the mailboxes of Councillor Dominato and Councillor Montague; and
2. All emails related to unlicensed or high risk venues and/or events between either Councillor Dominato or Councillor Montague and representatives from any of the following groups: the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, Blueprint Events, the Afterdark Hospitality Group or the MRG Group, Live Nation, Donnelly Group, Freehouse Collective, and Laura Ballance or the Laura Ballance Media Group.

Date range: March 1, 2025 to June 31, 2025.

All responsive records are attached. Some information in the records has been severed (blacked out) under s.15(1) and s.22(1) of the Act. You can read or download these sections here: http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/96165_00.

Under Part 5 of the Act, you may ask the Information & Privacy Commissioner to review any matter related to the City's response to your FOI request by writing to: Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner, info@oipc.bc.ca or by phoning 250-387-5629.

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with: 1) the request number (2026-101); 2) a copy of this letter; 3) a copy of your original request; and 4) detailed reasons why you are seeking the review.

Yours truly,

Kevin Tuerlings, FOI Case Manager, for

[Signed by Kevin Tuerlings]

Siân Madsen, MA, MAS
Acting Director, Access to Information & Privacy

If you have any questions, please email us at foi@vancouver.ca and we will respond to you as soon as possible. You may also contact 3-1-1 (604-873-7000) if you require accommodation or do not have access to email.

Encl. (Response package)

:pm

From: Hicks, Sarah <Sarah.Hicks@vancouver.ca>

Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2025 5:50 PM

To: Montague, Brian <Brian.Montague@vancouver.ca>; Dominato, Lisa <Lisa.Dominato@vancouver.ca>

Cc: Okell, Corrie <Corrie.Okell@vancouver.ca>; Zhou, Lenny <Lenny.Zhou@vancouver.ca>; Ford, Trevor <Trevor.Ford@vancouver.ca>; Morphy, Mellisa <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>; Kirby-Yung, Sarah <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>; Klassen, Mike <Mike.Klassen@vancouver.ca>; Meiszner, Peter <Peter.Meiszner@vancouver.ca>

Subject: RE: Illegal After Hours Premises; Vancouver

Yes, s.22(1) mentioned they went to a number of locations to see what was happening. Once received, we'll add her information to what you've provided below and come up with a plan to investigate.

For the liquor report, we are working through the final few pieces to land our recommendations and anticipate coming to Council in June.

Thanks

Sarah Hicks | Chief Licence Inspector
Licensing and Policy | City of Vancouver
sarah.hicks@vancouver.ca
(t) 604-873-7546

We acknowledge and honour the unceded, ancestral and shared territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̅əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and selilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

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From: Montague, Brian <Brian.Montague@vancouver.ca>

Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 8:45 AM

To: Hicks, Sarah <Sarah.Hicks@vancouver.ca>; Dominato, Lisa <Lisa.Dominato@vancouver.ca>

Cc: Okell, Corrie <Corrie.Okell@vancouver.ca>; Zhou, Lenny <Lenny.Zhou@vancouver.ca>; Ford, Trevor <Trevor.Ford@vancouver.ca>; Morphy, Mellisa <Mellisa.Morphy@vancouver.ca>; Kirby-Yung, Sarah <Sarah.Kirby-Yung@vancouver.ca>; Klassen, Mike <Mike.Klassen@vancouver.ca>; Meiszner, Peter <Peter.Meiszner@vancouver.ca>

Subject: RE: Illegal After Hours Premises; Vancouver

Thanks for this additional information Sarah. Glad to hear you have been speaking recently with industry as they have reached out to most of council in the last few days. I am hearing they have sent in their own "investigative reconnaissance" into all of these and advising it is clear they are openly selling alcohol without a liquor licence and some operating without a business licence.

Would love to be kept up on any investigations and enforcement on these and any other booze-cans in the city.

Also, has there been a fixed date for the report coming to council on operating hours for businesses with a liquor licence?

Cheers,

Brian

Councillor Brian Montague

City of Vancouver
453 W. 12th Ave, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5L 4Y8
brian.montague@vancouver.ca

Assistant

Wanda Bradbury
e: wanda.bradbury@vancouver.ca
t: 604.871.6711

From: Hicks, Sarah <Sarah.Hicks@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 8:50 AM
To: Montague, Brian <Brian.Montague@vancouver.ca>; Dominato, Lisa <Lisa.Dominato@vancouver.ca>
Cc: Okell, Corrie <Corrie.Okell@vancouver.ca>
Subject: RE: Illegal After Hours Premises; Vancouver

Good morning Councillor Montague and Councillor Dominato, I had staff look into the information you provided and have a summary below.

1. You + 1 – Believed to be located at 1067 Granville St. There are no active business licences for a business of this name that would be an event based operation. After one complaint for 1067 Granville was received in late 2022 and one in early 2023 pointing to a potential unapproved use on the 2nd floor, Property Use conducted a late night inspection in May 2023. During that inspection, no activity was taking place. Staff conducted follow up investigations in June and July of that year with a building representative to confirm use of the space. The representative advised that there was no tenant of the space and the spaces in question were cleared of all belongings. Staff advised the representative that any tenant required a business licence in order to operate. No new complaints have been received since the inspection in 2023.
2. Guest List – 750 Pacific Blvd – Guest List received their business licence in February 2025 to operate as a Hall for day time use to host events and as a non-alcoholic cabaret for after 2:00am. The location can pull Special Event Permits from the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch to serve alcohol during the day time use, not for after 2:00am. No complaints have been received to point to the location operation contrary to their approved use. s.15(1)
s.15(1)
s.15(1)
3. Soma – Believed to have been at 535 Howe St. There are no active business licences for a business of this name that would be an event based operation. Property Use Inspection staff inspected the 535 Howe St site on April 12th at 11:00pm and did not find any activity at the time of inspection. An individual on site advised that Soma is no longer there as they had taken the space over. They described that the space was not currently being used as a commercial use. Inspectors are following up with the property owner s.15(1)
s.15(1)

4. NK Name – This name and location isn't familiar to staff. s.15(1)
s.15(1)
5. Industrial Garden – 236 Clark – Operated by Vantek. We are familiar with 236 Clark. In 2024, Vantek applied for and received a number of event licences through the [Arts and Culture Event program](#), where they can host up to 6 events each month. We have been working with the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) connected to this location as they surpassed the total annual number of 24 Special Event Permits (SEPs). The SEP is the provincial permit that allows for alcohol consumption/sale at events and are intended for special and infrequent events. They are not meant as a substitution from a permanent liquor licence for establishments. The LCRB suspended the issuance of any further SEPs for 2024 as a result of overuse. In 2025 the operator has taken out Arts and Culture Event licences each month for 6 events each month. We know that their April series of events does have an approved SEP from the LCRB. There have been no new complaints for the property since September 2024.

Separately from this email, I was speaking with industry representatives last week who have raised similar concerns of after hours clubs selling alcohol despite not having approval to do so. s.15(1)
s.15(1)

I hope this helps and that you have a relaxing long weekend.

Sarah Hicks | Chief Licence Inspector
Licensing and Policy | City of Vancouver
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(t) 604-873-7546

We acknowledge and honour the unceded, ancestral and shared territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and selilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

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From: Montague, Brian <Brian.Montague@vancouver.ca>
Sent: Thursday, April 10, 2025 3:09 PM
To: Hicks, Sarah <Sarah.Hicks@vancouver.ca>
Cc: Dominato, Lisa <Lisa.Dominato@vancouver.ca>
Subject: FW: Illegal After Hours Premises; Vancouver

Hi Sarah,

I've been chatting with some folks in the bar / nightclub / hospitality industry. They have made me aware of some illegal after-hours clubs that are operating in Vancouver. They include:

1. You + 1 : 1000 block of Granville alley entrance.

- 2. Guest List:** Plaza of nations beside Enso
- 3. Soma:** Across the alley from Brandis
- 4. NK name:** Beside the Waldorf
- 5. Industrial Garden:** 236 Clark Drive

Regardless of whether they have a business license, I am being told that all are selling alcohol well after regular licensed venues have closed. While Bar Watch venues obey the law and adhere to the requirements necessary for membership, these illegal "booze cans" don't carry insurance and have no public safety policies whatsoever. The VPD is aware of these places, however, their deployment is priority based with thin resources.

Would like to know if the City is aware of these locations and if Licencing, along with your provincial counterparts at the provincial Health and Liquor Authority, are planning any enforcement or would considerate?

Thanks in advance,
Brian

Councillor Brian Montague
City of Vancouver
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Assistant

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