



## Motion Memorandum

**SUBJECT:** Future of City of Burlington Outdoor Patio Program  
**TO:** Community Planning, Regulation & Mobility Cttee.  
**FROM:** Councillor Lisa Kearns, Ward 2  
**Date to Committee:** November 9, 2021  
**Date to Council:** November 23, 2021

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### **Motion for Council to Consider:**

Direct the Director of Community Planning to report back in Q1 2022 with a report, including options and recommendations, outlining a plan and process for moving forward with a permanent city-wide outdoor patio program (post covid 19 recovery); and

Direct the Director of Community Planning that the following areas and considerations be included:

- Update and alignment of city patio related policies, zoning requirements and bylaws with current, pending or proposed Province of Ontario legislation/regulations inclusive of the Municipal Act;
- Duration of the outdoor patio season(s);
- Differentiation of patios on City-owned public lands and private property;
- City patio fee options including potential waiver of patio and adjacent parking fees;
- City departmental support to facilitate patio installation and safe operation of patios on City sidewalks, parking lots and/or road allowances;
- Environmental scan of other GTHA municipalities related to the future of outdoor patios;
- Access to potential funding and other small business support from federal or provincial governments;
- Application of CaféTO best practices or similar patio program to the Burlington Downtown Business Areas; and

Direct the Chief Financial Officer to report on the future City operating and capital budget requirements to support the outdoor patio program in conjunction with the above report; and

Direct the Director of Community Planning to complete a review of the City policy and bylaw changes (e.g. zoning) contributing to the effectiveness of the 2020 and 2021 outdoor patio program; and

Direct the Director of Planning and the Executive Director of Burlington Economic Development to undertake hospitality industry stakeholder engagement consultation, (including BDBA, Aldershot BIA & Burlington Restaurant Association) with the respect to the proposed plan for the City's permanent outdoor patio program; and

Direct the Director of Community Planning to report on options for the standardization of patio materials for patios on municipal property.

**Reason:**

Expanding options for outdoor dining have a strong potential to improve vibrancy and community connections while accelerating recovery from COVID\_19 impacts. Exciting changes were temporarily made to the way in which we utilize the public realm to expand hospitality space in Burlington. In a similar manner, the CaféTO program had also made changes to ensure greater accessibility so all people can enjoy access to CaféTO restaurants. Best practice seeks to improve the look of the curb lane closure areas and increase options for cafe customization. Community vibrancy and municipal asset optimization can be enhanced by adding permissions for temporary platforms in curb lane cafe areas.

It is important to note the desire to create a unique café corridor in and around the downtown. As an area with unique conditions regarding encroachments on public lands that are not found elsewhere in the city, this includes the on-street parking assets it is key to have clear program requirements to allow for certainty and investment in an expanded patio program.

**Outcome Sought:**

Expanding support for hospitality businesses to provide safer spaces for liquor and food consumption will contribute to the economic recovery of a key employment sector within Burlington. A program that delivers standardized application and execution for the successful operation of expanded spaces will encourage further investment in our City by attracting patrons to additional local businesses and amenities. Allowing local businesses to establish temporary seasonal patios and seating areas utilizing on-street parking spaces within an articulated area or set of standards will result in improved longer-term uptake, improved financial planning for operators and an increased understanding of the program by other operators in proximity to outdoor patios.

**Vision to Focus Alignment:**

- Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- Improve integrated city mobility
- Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Motion Seconded by: as required  
Share with Senior Staff

Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager - In accordance with the Code of Good Governance, Council-Staff Relations Policy and an assessment of the internal capacity within the City to complete the work based on a specific target date (quarter/year).

**Comments:**

City Clerk:       Approved

City Manager:    Approved