

# Liquor Establishment Policy Amendment – Extension of Hours for Liquor Manufacturing Establishments with Lounge Endorsement Areas

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Committee of Council recommend Council approve an amendment to the Liquor Establishment Policy to provide for later closing times for liquor manufacturing establishments with a lounge endorsement area.

## **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report recommends that the City's Liquor Establishment Policy be amended to extend the hours of operation for craft liquor manufacturers with lounges to be no later than 11:00pm Monday-Thursday, 12:00am Friday & Saturday, and 10:00pm on Sunday.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2016, the City amended its regulations to allow for the establishment of liquor manufacturing businesses with accessory lounge endorsement areas and accessory liquor sales in the M1 General Industrial and M3 Light Industrial zones. The City's Liquor Establishment Policy provides a framework for factors to be considered when providing comment to the Liquor Control and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) on provincial liquor applications. The policy was amended to establish closing hours for lounge endorsement areas to be not later than 9:00pm Monday to Thursday, 10:00pm Friday and Saturday, and 8:00pm on Sunday.

In 2018, the City further amended its regulations and policies to provide for an increase to the seating capacity of lounge endorsement areas attached to liquor manufacturing businesses; and to provide guidance for variance requests to reduce parking stall requirements of the Parking and Development Management for these establishments.

There is now five craft liquor manufacturers in operation in the City of Port Coquitlam, with an additional two expected to open this year. Business owners are reporting that there is a demand for more flexible hours by their customers and has requested the City consider amending the Liquor Establishment Policy to allow for their establishments to have later closing times.

The requested times would provide for lounge endorsement areas to be open until 11:00pm Monday to Thursday, 12:00am Friday and Saturday, and 10:00pm on Sunday. The business owners note they expect actual hours to fluctuate depending on season and demand, and they are unlikely to be open to the maximum permitted hours on a consistent basis.

## **DISCUSSION**

An updated survey of liquor manufacturers with lounge endorsement areas in neighboring municipalities revealed there is a wide range of closing times; from Monday to Thursday,

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businesses are often open until 10:00 or 11:00pm, although some currently close as early as 8:00pm. Friday and Saturday also varied, with the majority open until 11:00pm or later and Sunday closing was typically between 9:00pm to 10:00pm. Several establishments advised that they are currently on “winter hours” and will stay open later during the summer season, holidays and for special events. A summary of this data has been provided in the table attachment to this report


The OCP objectives and guidelines promote a diverse local economy by supporting a range of industrial business and employment opportunities. Craft liquor manufacturers in Port Coquitlam have been very well received and supported by the community and are an important economic and employment generator.

Staff note the requested change does not appear to be inconsistent with operating hours of liquor manufacturers around the TriCities and Lower Mainland and would meet customer demand and provide support to local business. The City has not been apprised of any negative impacts associated with the existing liquor manufacturers and lounge endorsement areas and do not anticipate this would change with the amended hours. Support for the requested amendment to the hours of operation for lounge endorsement areas in the Liquor Establishment Policy is recommended.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

### **OPTIONS** (✓ = Staff Recommendation)

	#	Description
	1	Recommend Council amend the Liquor Establishment Policy to allow liquor manufacturing establishments with a lounge endorsement area to close two hours later than currently permitted.
	2	Request that staff bring forward additional information or a Policy amendment that would allow for different closing hours
	3	Determine that an amendment to the Liquor Establishment Policy should not proceed at this time.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Summary of closing hours for neighboring craft liquor manufacturers

Attachment 2: Letter from Liquor Manufacturing Establishments

Attachment 3: Amended Liquor Establishment Policy

**Lead author(s):** Jennifer Little and Graeme Muir