



**Committee of the Whole Report
For the Meeting of November 20, 2025**

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** November 6, 2025
From: Karen Hoese, Director, Planning and Development Department
Subject: **Application to extend hours of licenced service on Sundays for Lucky Bar at 517 Yates Street**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council direct staff to provide the following response to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch:

1. That Council does not support the application of Lucky Bar located at 517 Yates Street to extend hours of licenced service from 12 am to 2 am on Sundays.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek a Council resolution, in accordance with the requirements of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, regarding an application by Lucky Bar at 517 Yates Street. The business is seeking approval to extend licenced service by two hours on Sundays from 12 am to 2 am. The hours of licenced service are 12 pm to 2 am on every other day of the week and no change is proposed to the existing occupant load of 188 people.

Lucky Bar has operated since the early 2000's under a liquor primary licence and since 2019 Lucky Bar has not received any noise complaints. However, issues in the area persist that are related to the density of licenced seats and demographic served. These impacts to residents and businesses are reflected in the responses from the public notification process and input from Bylaw Services and based on these factors, it is recommended that Council decline support for an extension of hours to 2 am on Sunday at this time.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek a Council resolution, in accordance with the requirements of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act*, regarding an application by Lucky Bar at 517 Yates Street. The Liquor and Cannabis Regulations Branch (LCRB) is requesting a resolution from the City of Victoria regarding:

1. impact of noise on nearby residents
2. impact on the community if the application is approved.

PROPOSAL

Lucky Bar is seeking approval to extend licenced service by two hours on Sunday's from 12 am to 2 am, consistent with the 2 am closing time on every other day of the week. The occupant load is 188 people which is not proposed to increase, and the establishment does not have any outdoor seating.

A letter of intent has been provided in Appendix A and includes information about the business model and the rationale for the licence application. A map of the subject property and the immediate area is provided in Appendix B and illustrates the 100m public notification area.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

The following sections provide Council with information, analysis and recommendations for consideration of the Council resolution to the LCRB.

LCRB Jurisdiction

The Liquor and Cannabis Regulations Branch (LCRB) issues liquor licences under the authority of the *Liquor Control and Licensing Act* and regulations. The LCRB determines the category of licence appropriate or acceptable for the business based on submitted details. In the case of Lucky Bar, the establishment is licenced under a liquor primary licence.

City Liquor Licensing Policy

The City's *Liquor Licensing Policy* (2017) is included as Appendix E and provides direction on the procedures for the liquor licence application process. The hours of licensed service proposed by Lucky Bar are within the parameters of the City's policy.

Community Consultation

In accordance with the City's *Liquor Licensing Fee Bylaw* and *Liquor Licensing Policy*, all property owners and occupiers within 100 metres of the applicant's location (a total of 379 notices) were solicited by a mailed notice to provide input regarding this application. The notice was also sent to the Downtown Residents Association. The public notification letter and poster reflected the applicant's intent to extend licenced service by two hours on Sunday's from 12 am to 2 am with no change to the existing occupant load. The comment period was open for 30 days.

The City received eight letters in response to the public notification and seven were opposed to extended hours and one was supportive of the change. (see Appendix F). The Downtown Residents Association provided comment by email and suggested that the applicant undertake engagement of their residential neighbours to ensure that extending hours to 2am on Sunday would not negatively impact the liveability of the area.

Impact Assessment

Context

Lucky Bar is located in the Old Town District 1 (OTD-1) and this zone permits drinking establishments licenced through the Liquor Control and Licencing Act. The zone does not restrict the hours of operation or the occupant load of these establishments.

The business is in a single-storey commercial building at 517 Yates Street and is adjacent to buildings that include a mix of uses including residential, commercial and hospitality. The residential uses include the Victoria Regency and a former hostel that ceased operation in recent years.

Operations

Lucky Bar has been operating since the early 2000's and has accumulated seven noise complaints over 23 years. On each occasion Lucky Bar has taken steps to achieve compliance and since 2019 there have been no complaints. The applicant has provided a letter of intent, attached as Appendix A, which outlines their business operations and need for licencing.

Noise Considerations

Based on the City's Noise Bylaw, Lucky Bar is within the Intermediate Noise District and is subject to the noise limits prescribed for this district. The Noise District Map is included in Appendix D, and Appendix C illustrates the composition of licenced establishments in the area, which includes the block of the establishment and adjacent blocks.

On Sundays, of the 2,972 licenced seats in the area, approximately 20% are licenced past midnight until 1 am and 13% are open until 2 am. While Lucky Bar has demonstrated compliant and responsible behaviour since 2019, ongoing impacts to businesses and residents in the area continue as is reflected by the responses to the public notification process and input from Bylaw Services. The issues are a result of the density of licenced seats in the area and the demographic served and additional service hours for any establishment would be expected to contribute to existing impacts.

Applicant Response

As a part of the liquor licence process, it is standard practice to provide the applicant with an opportunity to review the report recommendations, so they may provide a response to the report prior to the report being forwarded to Council.

The applicant has not provided additional correspondence in support of the application.

OPTIONS & IMPACTS

Option 1 (Recommended): Decline support of the application to the LCRB

That Council, does not support the application of Lucky Bar located at 517 Yates Street to extend hours of licenced service from 12 am to 2 am on Sundays.

Option 2: Recommend support of the application to the LCRB

That Council supports the application of Lucky Bar to extend licenced service by two hours from 12 am to 2 am on Sundays.

Impacts

Accessibility Impact Statement

As the establishment is in an existing building, current accessibility requirements may not be met. There is no retroactive application of accessibility requirements under the *BC Building Code* and the establishment is therefore conforming.

2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan

The recommendation to the LCRB to decline support for Lucky Bar’s application is intended to help prevent an increase in the density of late-night licenced seats within the area. This approach reflects consideration for the surrounding businesses, residents, and the overall economic environment of the downtown core. Supporting small businesses and the visitor economy and working to strengthen and add vitality to the downtown core is consistent with the Strategic Objective for *Economic Health and Community Vitality*.

Community Safety and Wellbeing Impact

The recommendation to decline support for the application aligns with the Downtown and Commerce sectors of the *Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan* helping to support employers and employees by ensuring commercial viability in the area.

Impacts to Financial Plan

None.

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

Mixed-use of residential and continuous commercial at grade including retail, office and visitor accommodation is encouraged and the service of liquor is consistent with the Official Community Plan objectives for this neighbourhood.

CONCLUSIONS

Lucky Bar has operated since the early 2000's under a liquor primary licence at 517 Yates Street and is requesting to extend service by two hours on Sundays from 12 am to 2 am. Since 2019 Lucky Bar has not received any noise complaints, but issues exist in the area that are related to the density of licenced seats and demographic served exist in the area. These impacts to residents and businesses are reflected in the responses to the public notification process and input from Bylaw Services and based on these factors, it is recommended that Council decline support for hours to be extended to 2 am on Sunday at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Morhart
Building and Inspection Services

Karen Hoese, Director
Planning and Development Department

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.

List of Attachments

- Appendix A: Rationale Letter
- Appendix B: Site Map
- Appendix C: Vicinity Information and Map
- Appendix D: Noise District Map
- Appendix E: Council Liquor Licencing Policy
- Appendix F: Public Responses
- Appendix G: Types of Liquor Licences Issued in the Province of British Columbia
- Appendix H: Applicant Correspondence