



## **Committee of the Whole Report**

### **For the Meeting of November 20, 2025**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** November 6, 2025

**From:** Andrea Hudson, Assistant Director, Citywide Planning, Planning and Development Department

**Subject:** **759 Yates Street (Glitch Bar and Games Room) – Application for a New Liquor Primary Licence**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

1. That Council supports the application of Glitch Bar and Games Room, located at 759 Yates Street, for a new liquor primary licence conditional on the following:
  - a. The establishment having a total occupant load of 275 people.
  - b. Hours of licenced service from 9:00 am to 2:00 am daily.
2. The following comments are provided regarding the prescribed considerations:
  - a. If the application is approved, it is anticipated to have a positive economic impact on the community as the approval supports the viability of the business as a local employer.
  - b. The views of residents were solicited through a mailout to neighbouring property owners and occupiers within 100 metres of the licensed location and a notice posted at the property. In response to the notification that went to 789 owners and occupants, the City received 12 letters of correspondence. Of these letters, eight expressed support and four expressed opposition. The Downtown Residents Association confirmed that they did not have any comments to provide.
3. Council recommends to the Province that the liquor primary licence be approved as recommended.

### **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 Glitch Bar and Games Room at 759 Yates Street.

The application is for a new liquor primary licence with a 275-person occupant load and hours of licenced service from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. daily.

The application was evaluated according to City policy, with staff commentary and feedback received through the public notification process. It has also been considered in the context of the local vicinity and the city as a whole and is consistent with the City's *Liquor Licensing Policy*. Based on the above, this report recommends support for the application.

## **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 Glitch Bar and Games Room at 759 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**

Glitch Bar and Games Room is seeking approval for a new liquor primary licence having a 275-person occupant load and hours of licenced service from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. daily.

A letter of intent has been provided in Appendix A and includes rationale for the 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 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 the Glitch Bar and Games Room, the establishment has proposed to be licenced under a liquor primary licence to accommodate the business model.

### **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 proposed hours of licenced service and capacity 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 789 notices) were solicited by a mailed notice to provide input regarding this application. The notice was also posted at the establishment for public feedback and sent to the Downtown Residents Association. The public notification reflected the applicant's intent to obtain a liquor primary licence, occupant load and hours of service. The comment period was open for 30 days.

The City received 12 letters in response to the public notification. Of these letters, eight expressed support and four expressed opposition. The public letters of response are included in Appendix G. The Downtown Residents Association confirmed that they did not have any comments to provide.

## **Impact Assessment**

### *Context*

Glitch Bar and Games Room is in the Central Business District 1 (CBD-1) zone, which permits a range of uses including mixed-use buildings with residential uses. Drinking establishments, entertainment venues, bars, and pubs are permitted in this zone, including facilities licenced through the *Liquor Control and Licencing Act*. The zone does not restrict the hours of operation or occupant loads of these establishments.

The business is located in a five-storey building which includes residential rental units, a café, liquor retail store, and restaurant. Adjacent buildings include a mix of uses including commercial uses and a church. 759 Yates Street has a long history as a liquor primary licenced establishment, having been previously used as a pub and sports bar.

### *Operations*

The establishment would operate as a bar with pub-style food, retro video games, a small dance floor and TVs for viewing sports events. Glitch Bar and Games Room has a history of responsible operations in Vancouver. The applicant has provided a letter of intent, attached as Appendix A, which outlines their business operations.

### *Noise Considerations*

Based on the City's Noise Bylaw, Glitch Bar and Games Room 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.

If approved, the location would return to its previously licenced capacity as held by the previous establishment. The hours of service are consistent with other licensed establishments in the area. Based on this, noise impacts are not anticipated if approved.

## **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 confirmed they are satisfied with the recommendations and have included a letter (Attachment I).

## **OPTIONS & IMPACTS**

### **Option 1: That Council recommend support of the application to the LCRB (Recommended)**

Council may choose to support the application of Glitch Bar and Games Room, located at 759 Yates Street, for a new liquor primary licence conditional on the following:

- a. The establishment having a total occupant load of 275 people.
- b. Hours of licenced service from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. daily.

### **Option 2: That Council recommend decline of the application to the LCRB**

Alternatively, Council may decide to not support this application and recommend to the Province that the Liquor Primary license be declined.

## **Impacts**

### *Accessibility Impact Statement*

As the establishment is 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 support the application is likely to support small business and the visitor economy, and work to strengthen and add vitality to the downtown core, consistent with the Strategic Objective for *Economic Health and Community Vitality*.

### *Impacts to Financial Plan*

None.

### *Official Community Plan Consistency Statement*

The use as a *drinking establishment* is consistent with the Official Community Plan objectives for the Downtown Core, providing tourism and recreational opportunities and supporting regional economic goals.

### *Community Safety and Wellbeing Impact*

The recommendation to support the application aligns with the Downtown and Commerce sectors of the *Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan* by ensuring that residents and visitors have access to world-class experiences and services, and by encouraging people to visit and spend time downtown.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Glitch Bar and Games Room is seeking approval for a new Liquor Primary licence at 759 Yates Street, with a 275-person occupant load and hours of licenced service from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. daily. The site is appropriately zoned for the use, is consistent with current City *Liquor Licensing Policy*, and staff review did not identify concerns with the application. Based on this, the application is considered supportable.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Lauriston  
Development Process Coordinator

Andrea Hudson, Assistant Director, Citywide Planning  
on behalf of  
Karen Hoesel, Director Planning and Development  
Department

### **Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager**

#### **List of Attachments**

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