This application from Chuck’s Burger Bar (formerly Famous Originals) at 538 Yates Street proposes extended liquor service hours from the current midnight (7 days/wk) to 1am (Sun-Thur) and until 2am (Fri-Sat). The applicant is not seeking any increase to the number of seats. The current license includes a small patio on sidewalk in front of the licensed establishment.

The location is within an area populated with numerous other licensed establishments. The immediate area (500 block Yates St) is mixed-use, comprised of retail, government, food/restaurant, residential, and office/commercial. The area is one which generates an unusually high call-volume for police (987 calls for service for the past 14 months, the period January 1, 2017 to March 13, 2019) This does however include two unrelated ‘hot spots’. Taking out these two ‘hot spots’ brings that total from 987 down to 429. However, those numbers are still relevant when considering the impacts on this particular neighbourhood and the residents that live here.

The extension of the liquor service hours contributes to the further draw of liquor-related disorder and calls-for-service later into the night. The effects that could be attributed specifically to this application are difficult to predict or determine. Documented issues are rarely assigned specifically to one address, but are commonly tagged to the block in which the incident(s) occur.

VicPD cannot support an application where there is either an increase to the load capacity (not the case here) and/or to the hours of operation later into the evening and night. An increase in liquor seats and/or hours equates to a greater demand on police resources, resulting in decreased level of service to the community. Current service and staffing levels cannot manage any further increase to liquor-related calls for service. VicPD is already heavily reliant on funding through the Late Night Task Force to meet even the most basic operational needs in the downtown core during the busy liquor hours (evening through to the early morning hours). There is no additional operational capacity to handle the increased call load that would result from this application, similar applications, and the incremental effect that they have collectively.