

Council Member Motion For the Meeting of May 14, 2020

To: Committee of the Whole Date: May 8, 2020

From: Councillors Alto and Thornton-Joe

Subject: Assistance with Recovery Phase for Business

Background:

Covid 19 has created hardship for many and our businesses in the City have suffered greatly. As we enter into the recovery phase of Covid 19, many businesses will be adapting as they try to create income for their business and keep their staff safe and at the same time, customers will be wanting to ensure that they are also maintaining sufficient distancing. This will be seen as difficult to do for many small local businesses. To offer some assistance, a six month relaxation of our bylaws which would allow businesses to sell merchandise in front of their business, or to offer seating in front of their business or in public spaces/squares adjacent to their business should be considered. A policy would consider how to balance assistance to a business while maintaining safe and accessible use of sidewalks and public spaces.

Recommendations:

That Council request that staff create temporary bylaw amendments that would:

- 1. Allow businesses to display and sell their merchandise in front of their business
- 2. Allow tables and chairs outside restaurants, coffee shops, bakeries
- 3. Allow businesses to use areas of public spaces or squares adjacent to a business
- 4. Consider how larger City spaces could be shared by businesses

Respectfully submitted,

Charlague Thornton-Joe
Councillor Thornton-Joe