



**Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 14, 2020**

Date: May 7, 2020

From: Councillor Loveday and Mayor Helps

Subject: Open Air Recovery – Support for Restaurants and Cafes in Public Spaces

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic crisis have had a profoundly negative impact on the hospitality industry including restaurants, coffee shops, and bars. It is important for the City of Victoria to support these small businesses through tough times and find innovative ways to allow for operations to be restored once it is declared safe to do so.

One option that is being pursued in some European cities is allowing restaurants and other establishments to setup outdoor dining opportunities in public spaces such as squares, plazas, and streets. (See attached article.) Allowing for temporary restaurant outdoor seating in public spaces – downtown and in neighbourhood centres – would provide restaurants the ability to re-open their dine-in operations while giving customers the ability to practice physical distancing in a fresh air setting. It would also enliven and animate public spaces during a summer when there will be no large festivals or events.

Recommendation

That Council direct staff to report back with options for flexible, innovative, and expedited permitting of patios in public spaces for restaurants and other establishments once public health restrictions have been loosened in order to promote economic recovery, taking into consideration accessibility impacts, needs for appropriate physical distancing, and ample room for pedestrians in high-traffic areas.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loveday", written over a faint circular stamp.

Councillor Loveday

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helps", written over a faint circular stamp.

Mayor Helps