



THE VICIOUS POODLE

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Dear Ryan,

Thank you very much for forwarding me a copy of the report regarding our liquor primary license application. Both the report and community feedback bring up some very important points that I hadn't touched on in my initial application.

Community and Business Relations made the recommendation to reduce the patio hours to 9am - 11:30pm ensuring the patio is cleared by midnight. I definitely support this recommendation. This will see the patio having no change in hours. So far these hours have not generated any noise complaints.

My biggest community concern since we opened has been noise for residents across the street at 727 Johnson. I frequently cross the street during our shows to assess noise levels. As of November 1st one of our weekly drag artists moved into 727 Johnson on the second floor facing the street and The Vicious Poodle. They will be an invaluable bellwether for noise. We can now reliably assess noise levels inside the apartment and make adjustments to our containment strategy.

It is certain that people talking outside at midnight is far less disruptive than a similar disturbance at 2am. We will absolutely need to be even more proactive at having our guests move along quickly after they depart the establishment. Having a staff member outside to remind them to keep voices low and to quickly move them along to Douglas Street will minimize community impact.

Since we opened in June of 2020 I have never had a single noise complaint brought to my attention.

Part of our nightly closing clean-up duties is to sweep the sidewalk and street, not just out front of The Vicious Poodle, but 5-10m in each direction to pick up any cigarette butts and other detritus to keep the neighbourhood clean.

It is no secret Johnson Street between Douglas and Blanshard has been a difficult block. During our six month renovation period in the fall and winter of 2019 we saw large numbers of homeless camped out and a lot of open hard drug use. Since The Vicious Poodle has opened, having a night-time presence on the block, there has been marked improvement. Almost entirely due to our efforts, I feel safe walking down the block alone at night. That is a change from the fall of 2019. Our continued presence and later opening hours will only further this transformation.

Naturally our new capacity and table placement was drawn up by an architect according to the BC building code and was approved by the fire department. Throughout the pandemic we have always been in strict compliance with all health orders, including barriers, social distancing, mask and vaccine mandates and all other requirements. We stopped live shows for 6 months to remain in compliance and even closed completely for two months when indoor dining was shut down.

I want to thank everyone for their work and guidance on this application. I look forward to continuing as an integral part of Victoria's vibrant and unique downtown community.

Socrates Diamant