

Ryan Morhart

From: Stewart Muir <[REDACTED]>
Sent: September 16, 2021 9:54 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: 1515 Douglas St

As owner occupier of 102-732 Cormorant, I thank you for the chance to comment on the liquor application for 1515 Douglas.

Please proceed with granting the applicant's request. This is the kind of activity that will ensure a healthy mixture of uses in this urban neighbourhood and attract new businesses and renewal. The street scene after dark in this vicinity would be elevated considerably with this type of amenity. I'm not concerned about incremental noise etc because we have sirens all day long and, all too frequently, loud disturbances because of the drug and crime scene at Centennial Square. As a resident, I would much prefer to see people on the streets after dark who are enjoying themselves at an establishment such as this as it will make our street safer and more inviting.

Thank you
Stewart Muir

--
Stewart Muir
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ryan Morhart

From: Avy Woo [REDACTED]
Sent: September 21, 2021 8:26 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Notice for 1515 Douglas extended hours

Mr. Morhart

I reside at 770 Cormorant St in unit 705. I received a notice for extended hours to 1515 Douglas St from Topable Victoria to 2am. I don't know what would be their normal hours of operation, but I DO NOT support any extension to 2am. A restaurant would normally operate to 11pm; an operating hour to 2am is a nightclub/bar. Currently the new tiki bar located down the street on Cormorant St closes at midnight, and patrons who leave the bar are already generating loud noises that disturbs the peace and quiet of this residential street, every night. Having another licensed premise that goes to 2am will be intolerable. Please notify Council and staff that I do not support this extension, as would many of my neighbours who have to deal with this noise issue.

Respectfully,

Avy Woo
705 - 770 Cormorant St
Victoria BC
V8W3J3

Ryan Morhart

From: Bruce Novak [REDACTED]
Sent: October 15, 2021 1:56 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Restaurant application

I live at 770 Cormorant Street and am not supportive of the application made by the TopTable Victoria restaurant to be open until 2:00am daily. This will undoubtedly be a noise disturbance to the residents of the neighbourhood who should be able to enjoy peace and quiet in the evenings per the City bylaws.

It's great to have another restaurant nearby and the patio would be fine for earlier hours. For instance, if the patio closed at 9pm that would be manageable but it is a great concern to have a patio open until 2:00am daily. Sound carries excessively at night up the street due to the very tall office building behind that location and the Tiki bar has proven that since it opened. It doesn't even have a patio but their customers are outside smoking/yelling/gather together which creates a substantial amount of noise. Having an outdoor patio open would add to that and would be an issue for us and our neighbours.

Please don't approve their application as it stands.

Respectfully,

B Novak

Ryan Morhart

From: Gordon Chan [REDACTED]
Sent: October 15, 2021 4:39 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: extended liquor service hours

Hello,

I would like to express my concern in extending the hours of operation at 1515 Douglas St. It is difficult enough to navigate downtown streets at the present with the amount of homelessness and to add party goers to the mix late at night will not make downtown Victoria more inviting or safer. I strongly oppose this request.

Thank you,
Gordon Chan
owner 206-760 Johnson Street.

Ryan Morhart

From: Taxpayer [REDACTED]
Sent: September 25, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Toptable Victoria: Application to extend Hours of Liquor Service

Importance: High

Dear Manager, Permits & Inspections,
Sustainable Planning and Community Development Department (City of Victoria):

Thank you for your notice dated September 9, 2021 regarding the application for an extension of hours of liquor service by Toptable Victoria, located at 1515 Douglas Street. The establishment wants to extend the hours of licensed service to 2:00 am daily. We are strongly opposed to this application and request that you vote to reject it.

We are part owners of a residence at 760 Johnson Street, which is within 100 meters of the above-mentioned restaurant. Our son lives in the residence at 760 Johnson and works at an office downtown. We feel that allowing liquor to be sold until 2:00 am daily would adversely affect personal safety, security of property, and public order, for residents in the area. It also may indirectly reduce the value of our property if safety and public disorder concerns increase.

An article in the Times Colonist on August 1, 2021 reported that Victoria Police were so overwhelmed during an impaired driving roadblock on a recent Sunday morning that they had to shut down after only two hours. They did not have enough personnel to handle the number of impaired drivers. Here is the link to the article: [With more impaired drivers than officers can handle, Victoria police shut roadblock down early | Times Colonist](#) Please do not exasperate this problem by extending the hours of liquor service to Toptable Victoria on Douglas Street. Victoria City Police already have too many impaired driving incidents to properly handle without extending the licensed hours of the above-mentioned establishment.

Please remember that the City of Victoria Downtown Core Area Plan (updated June 2020), under Section 9 Community Vitality states the following: *"9.10. Work with the Victoria Police Department and community partners to improve personal safety, security of property and public order within the Downtown Core Area"*. We believe that keeping licensed service hours shorter rather than longer better contributes to improving personal safety, security and public order.

Also, the City of Victoria's Vision Statement speaks of providing a "high quality public and private environment", and modelling "livable and sustainable urbanism". In order for people to have safe and quiet enjoyment of their residences downtown, we believe there must be reasonable limits on the hours that liquor is served in establishments near residential buildings.

Please vote to reject the application by Toptable Victoria.

Sincerely,
Jeff and Sheryl St.Gelais
Part owners of 204-760 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC
[REDACTED]

Ryan Morhart

From: K C [REDACTED]
Sent: October 15, 2021 12:53 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Liquor service at 1515 Douglas Street

Hello,

I would like to voice my opposition to liquor service from midnight to 2 am. There is a restaurant on Cormorant Street that has a liquor license and the patrons stand outside and smoke and talk in loud voices which disturbs residents of 732 Cormorant Street.

Thank you.

K Cameron
808-732 Cormorant Street

Manager, Permits & Inspections
Sustainable Planning and Community Development Department
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6
rmorhart@victoria.ca

October 12, 2021

RE: Liquor Service for Food Primary Licence of Toptable Victoria; 1515 Douglas Street

Dear Mr. Morhart,

I am writing as a resident of 732 Cormorant Street in response to the application for notice of a liquor service licence and a patron participation endorsement by **Toptable Victoria**, at **1515 Douglas Street**.

Noise Levels

Once again, we are writing a letter to the City of Victoria Council with expressed concerns about noise levels on our primarily residential street. Our household also wrote letters in relation to the liquor-primary license for Tora Tiki at 714 Cormorant Street. Ultimately, we hold similar concerns with respect to noise levels generated by additional establishments in our community (loitering, intoxicated yelling, increased foot traffic late at night, etc.).

Admittedly, our concerns with Toptable Group are less severe than those of Tora Tiki, as we recognize that Toptable's new restaurant will be front facing on Douglas Street. However, we cannot support additional outdoor seating should it be located on Cormorant Street (if something of the sort is in their proposal or could be under future consideration).

As a young professional couple, we currently rent our unit in The Corazon on Cormorant Street. We both work and are highly educated in the legal and financial sectors, and yet we still struggle to live in this increasingly expensive and inaccessible city. We sincerely could not afford to move from our home, which we love dearly, should it become displacing due to increased noise-levels on our street. Additionally, I would ask Council to weigh mental health and other social costs just as much as they tend to prioritize the economic costs of these decisions.

Although I am somewhat less concerned with noise generated by Toptable Victoria, I am increasingly less confident in Council's ability to engage in accountability measures following the poor management of noise generated by Tora Tiki. For that business license, we initially expressed concerns for noise regarding:

- Groups of people loitering on Cormorant Street (e.g. smoking, line-ups)
- Intoxicated individuals yelling into the late hours of the night, both during operating hours and after closure

- Music permeating from the bar, such as people entering and exiting, or the doors being propped open

Frustratingly, all of these things happen on a daily basis and are incredibly disruptive to our lives. Once again, we are asking how will these things be managed in relation to noise generated by Toptable Victoria and who will be held responsible and accountable for excessive noise? To be noted, Tora Tiki has not implemented the 'good neighbour policies' or signage asking patrons to respect residents in this community – things their initial proposal to Council said they would do, and things I presume went into Council's decision to approve their license. Therefore, we ask the Council to consider these factors (i.e. a lack of follow through on the part of the business) that will have future negative impacts and community tensions that extend beyond their decision of a license.

Incomplete Information

I have to admit that it is difficult to write this letter because I know very little about the type of business or operations proposed by Toptable Victoria. I am left making several assumptions: Where is the outdoor patio located? What do they mean by 'patron participation'? I am concerned with how we, as a community, are expected to make informed judgements on these consultations when we are given limited information about the proposal. There is a lack of information about the restaurant that inhibits us to fully weigh into the application process, and I don't understand how Council considers that an acceptable forum for 'consultation'.

Other Frustrations

Lastly, and I mentioned this briefly in the previous letter for Tora Tiki, there is growing frustration with respect to recent consultation notices that we have received. I do not fully understand the purpose of these consultative processes with neighbouring residents when a) the conversation is one-sided and b) we only receive the notices late in the process.

Toptable has been renovating their space for around two years. Only now that they are nearing their opening date is when community consultation is brought in (which makes it hard to believe our voices really matter). I do not fully understand why residents are not notified earlier when businesses apply for their construction/renovation permits. Given that this company has accrued significant costs in leasehold improvements, rents, and staffing, should most of the residents weigh against the business's application for this license, Council will more than likely side with the business (in the case of Tora Tiki, more than half the letters sent to Council opposed the license, but it was still approved).

In my view, these consultations seem to matter very little to Council, but are a way for members of the City of Victoria to feel accomplished at the end of the day without really having to engage in any meaningful dialogue with community. I feel the intended purpose of these consultations is not actually accomplished at the end of the day. With greater number of developments happening in our city, the number of displacements and growing frustrations will likely rise, in part due to the lack of community voice and input. I truly believe the City of Victoria needs to address the gaps in their consultation processes/policies.

Conclusion

I do not necessarily oppose the licence for Toptable Victoria, on the assumption that there will be no outdoor seating on Cormorant Street. That said, I would vehemently oppose additional noise-generation from outdoor seating on Cormorant now and into the future. I also wish to take this opportunity to ask Council to reflect on what exactly it is they are trying to accomplish with these community processes, as I do not think they work in the way that is expected of them.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,



Lisa Slager

[Redacted]

306-732 Cormorant Street
Victoria, BC
V8W 4A5

Ryan Morhart

From: Louis Warren [REDACTED]
Sent: September 28, 2021 7:06 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Application to Extend hours for Toptable 1515 Douglass St

I'm a resident at The Corazon Condo 732 Cormorant St. Extended hours were just given to the establishment Tora Tiki @ 714 Cormorant St. and at night has made that block noisy and busy already. I'm putting my vote against extended hours for Toptable due to the small nature of the street and the noise and crowds it will cause, not to mention parking issues.

Thank you

Louis
201 – 732 Cormorant St

Ryan Morhart

From: Matthew Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: October 15, 2021 11:00 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: 1515 Douglas - Toptable application

Mr Morhart,

I'm writing regarding the application by Toptable to extend their hours to beyond midnight. My primary concern with the application is the increase in noise and foot traffic in our primarily residential neighbourhood. Recently the application for Toratiki's liquor licence was approved by the council, the application by them was approved by the council as they believed that there would not be a material increase in noise in the local area, which I can reassure you is not the case. Since that approval there has been a noticeable increase in drunk people and noise in the street from the hours of 8-Midnight.

My concern with the application by Toptable is that the outdoor seating would exacerbate this already noticeable increase in noise, I personally believe that 38 outdoor seats is unreasonable unless measures were in place to restrict the flow of the noise. The street that we live on (Cormorant St) has several tall buildings on either side of the street, this has the effect of funneling the noise through and up rather than allowing the noise to dissipate.

Another aspect that I believe that may have been overlooked is that level of access for those with mobility issues if the outdoor seating were to extend onto Cormorant. The sidewalk that is next to the restaurant location is actually quite narrow and if permanent outdoor seating were to be installed outside then this will restrict the level of access for everyone but particularly for those with mobility issues.

I'm not opposed to the restaurant, I just think that the application for the excessive outdoor seating should be reduced and that the approval for Toratiki displays that Cormorant St isn't built for the noise that these places generate.

Matthew Smith
306-732 Cormorant St

Ryan Morhart

From: robert ross [REDACTED]
Sent: September 19, 2021 1:22 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: re- Toptable Victoria application ...

September 19th, 2021 To whom it may concern,

This is in response to your letter dated September 9th, 2021. I am an Owner @ 732 Cormorant St., and have lived there since 2011. (The Corazon Building)

I have many concerns with Toptable's application as indicated below :

Proximity: 1. Their establishment is literally across the street from my RESIDENTIAL building . Many more people milling and lingering about ...adding to the already ongoing security and safety issues, therefore, is a concern to me.

2. Cormorant St. is both short and narrow - often completely congested with parked vehicles & very limited space for single traffic flow. Again, safety of vehicles and pedestrians becomes an even larger concern.

Noise: 1. More people, more vehicles coming and going and parking, and all GOING ON until 2am ! ...
... thus inevitably leading to more noise .

2. In the Corazon , our NOISE Bylaws are guided by the City of Victoria's 'Quiet time' of 10pm until 7am every day ! Thus allowing ALL RESIDENTS some PEACE in their OWN HOME.

Security: 1. Security is always an issue when living in the downtown core. As a resident, I need to feel safe whenever entering and leaving my home. It is also necessary for me to feel this safety as I walk down my street to my front entrance. Any Publicly Licensed Establishment that contributes more people and traffic to the area , and thus threaten my security and safety , is a real concern for me.

2. LOITERING individuals, coming or going or just 'hanging around' , will quite likely increase in both number and frequency if Toptable's application receives consent. This type of activity will , again, occur potentially until 2am! This is certainly a security and safety concern I have for myself and all Corazon Residents.

SUMMARY :

I truly enjoy living in the downtown area of Victoria and am very respectful of my neighbours and their space. As the only major residential building (72 living units) on Cormorant St. , it is essential for all Corazon residents to be able to protect their right to 'Live a Peaceful Life' within their own Home ... and daily .

Thank you for receiving and considering my response.

R.D. Ross
(owner at the Corazon)

peace, love and joy !!!!! ... 🙌😎

Ryan Morhart

From: S Reynolds [REDACTED]
Sent: October 15, 2021 12:53 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: TopTable Application

Dear Manager, Permits & Inspections
Sustainable Planning and Community Development Department

I am writing regarding the Notice of Application made by Toptable Victoria to extend Hours of Liquor Service for a Food Primary License and to obtain a Patron Participation Endorsement. The Applicant proposes hours of 9:00am to 2:00am daily with a total occupant load of 177 people which includes a 38 person outdoor patio. The location of Toptable is on the corner of Douglas Street and Cormorant Street.

As a resident at 732 Cormorant Street, the application put forward is of concern due to the anticipated noise and disturbance that will no doubt occur having patrons at that location until that time and outside on a patio. Their request to be open until 2am daily including patio space seems excessive for a Food Primary License.

Council is asked to consider the following:

- There are residences immediately nearby which does not make this an appropriate spot for late operating hours to 2am. Doing so would prioritize this business over the established bylaws of which residents of the city of Victoria rely, making it incompatible with a residential area.
- Of particular concern is the proposal to have an outdoor patio open until 2:00am, which would undoubtedly violate the noise bylaws of having reasonable quiet between 10:00pm and 7:00am. Sound travels at night, especially with the tall building behind TopTable.
- The street is not the best example of urban planning, with noise echoing between the office building and our residential buildings, as well as most homes being poor sound insulators with large glass windows.
- This is not considered an entertainment district and other locations nearby including the Sherwood have earlier closing hours. The nearby liquor establishment of the Tora Tiki bar directly across the street on Cormorant has already been causing excess noise issues when their patrons gather outside yelling, smoking in groups, and generally impacting the typically quiet street. Notably, their establishment is indoor only, their capacity is just under a third of the capacity of the Applicant, and is supposed to close at 1am. T
- In the event that council did accept this application despite concerns from residents, it remains unclear what the City of Victoria would be prepared to do to address cases of noise generated by this establishment. We have noticed an increase in yelling and gatherings of their patrons outside on the street on a regular basis. When reported to Bylaw, they instructed us to call the police. Given the significant wait times that residents are unfortunately experiencing trying to reach Victoria Police for legitimate emergencies, this is clearly not an adequate response or approach to address the issues.

Respectfully, I share an interest in having a vibrant downtown Victoria however it is unreasonable that doing so is at the expense of residents who expect the City to adhere to their own bylaws. I would implore council to balance their interest in supporting businesses with the interests of residents to continue to want to live here with a reasonable interest and expectation of quiet, peace, enjoyment, and comfort.

Sincerely,
Sarah Reynolds

Ryan Morhart

From: Lene Parenteau [REDACTED]
Sent: September 15, 2021 4:00 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Application at 1515 Douglas street

We support this application. My understanding it is an upscale restaurant and not a nightclub. I also assume it will attract patrons that will not be causing loud and drunken disturbances in the street as that would not be the clientele (in my understanding).

It may bring some more "life" to the neighborhood.

We own at 770 Cormorant street. Suite 503.

Best regards

Lene Parenteau
[REDACTED]