November 3, 2021

Honourable Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9282 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9J7

Dear Minister Farnworth,

On behalf of Victoria City Council, I am writing today to request favourable consideration for the further extension of currently approved Temporary Expanded Service Area provisions from the current expiry date of June 01, 2022 to October 31, 2022.

The Build Back Victoria (BBV) program and associated Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw (#20-072) was introduced in June 2020. The program has allowed businesses to temporarily expand their operating capacity into public spaces such as parks, sidewalks, streets, and boulevards to respond to public health requirements associated with COVID-19.

In October 2021, Council approved an extension of the bylaw until October 31, 2022. These measures have proven to be an effective, popular and safe way to allow service industry businesses to continue operating during the pandemic.

Staff and business leaders predict recovery is likely to extend into 2023 in some capacity resulting in increased demand for the program including patios, flex zones, business in parks and mobile vendors. Based on the City's experience with BBV and a desire to support continued corporate use of public space, we are requesting that the Province consider extending their program from the current expiry date of June 01, 2022 to October 31, 2022.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor

Cc: Mary Sue Maloughney, Assistant Deputy Minister and General Manager, Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch

The City of Victoria recognizes the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations in whose traditional territories we live and work "Hay swx qa"

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