

2022

CITY OF VICTORIA | Engineering and Public Works

# Proposed Components to Inform New Patio Bylaw

Committee of the Whole December 8 2022



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## Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present a proposed set of goals, principles, and core components to inform the development of a new Patio Bylaw and associated program.

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## Background

- Stewardship of public space is a core responsibility of a municipality
- Patios support streetscape vibrancy and animation
- More than four decades facilitating patios on public property
- COVID-19 Pandemic accelerated awareness and public acceptance for outdoor patios



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## Background

Sidewalk Café Bylaw (2016) and design guidelines



Sidewalk Café Guidelines

Business Recovery from Pandemic Bylaw (2020 - 2022) and program guidelines



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## Diversity and Evolution of Patios



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## Modernization of Bylaw & Program

- 2021 direction to update the Sidewalk Café Bylaw to integrate lessons learned from Build Back Victoria
  - Re-name the bylaw
  - Safety measures
  - Accessibility requirements on / adjacent to patios
  - Consider changes to modernize and streamline the application process
  - Consider inspection programs
- An effective and modernized program will include timely customer service and application reviews, with responsive program options and mandatory standards to ensure quality, equity, safety, and accessibility.

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## Modernization of Bylaw & Program

- Review of current programs and feedback
  - Lessons learned locally and across North America
- Reflect the diversity of interests
  - Incorporate operational needs
  - Balanced uses of space
  - Accessible and welcoming spaces
- Collaboration and culture of stewardship
  - Maintain focus on space, not occupancy or other approvals such as liquor licencing



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## Current Status

- BBV Bylaw and program ending on March 31, 2023
  - Includes Province of BC regulations to support Temporary Extended Service Areas
- Completion of Key Tasks:
  - Best practices review – Summer 2022
  - BBV permit analysis and associated maintenance / removals - Fall 2022
  - Technical analysis – Fall 2022 / Winter 2023
- Bylaw and Program Design Considerations:
  - Integration of successful elements of existing bylaws and design guidelines
  - A user-friendly guide will help businesses understand options, expectations, steps and required documentation

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## Goals

1. City streetscapes and public spaces are enhanced through the patio program.
2. Patios are safe, accessible and maintain functional access to public infrastructure and spaces.
3. Licence application and approval services are fair, flexible, and timely.



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## Principles

- Sense of Community
- Ease of Movement
- Safety
- Inclusion
- Neighbourhood Character
- Flexibility
- Recognition of Value



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## Patio Program Approach



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## Next Steps

- Invite final stakeholder input
- Complete bylaw and program
- Bylaw introduction and adoption in March 2023

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## Recommendation

That Council approve the proposed goals, principles, and core components described within the report to inform the development of a new Patio Bylaw and associated program.

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