



1715 Government Street
Victoria, BC
V8W 1Z4

Mayor Lisa Helps and Council
City of Victoria
c/o Mr. Ryan Morhart – Manager, Permits and Inspections
No.1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
V8W 1P6

December 18, 2017

Re: Application to Amend Liquor Licence – Increase Occupancy from 300 to 500 – Upstairs Cabaret

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

The DRA Land Use Committee has reviewed the application to amend the Liquor Licence for Upstairs Cabaret. It is our understanding that the scope of changes is to extend the occupancy capacity from 300 persons to 500 persons. Feedback from the committee is as follows:

- The occupant load is proposed to be increased by 66% with the floor area per person at approximately 0.5 m² which satisfies code requirements of 0.4m² per person for standing space.
- Presumably for public safety reasons, other jurisdictions differentiate for licensed establishments and have higher area minimums per person for drinking establishments that are set by bylaw rather than Building or Fire Code. Vancouver has a minimum of 1.2 m² per person and Nanaimo has a limit of 0.95 m²

While the DRALUC reached no consensus on this application as it meets current code and Bylaw statutes for the proposed occupancy load for Victoria, it has been pointed out that it appears higher than adjacent jurisdictions permit. The City of Victoria may wish to explore the rationale for bylaws that reduce occupancy code maximums for licensed establishments adopted by other jurisdictions, for future applications.

Sincerely,

Ian Sutherland Chair, Land Use Committee, Downtown Residents Association

Ryan Morhart

From: Alex Campbell <alex@flyingsquirrelsports.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 4:50 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Capacity Change For Upstairs Cabaret

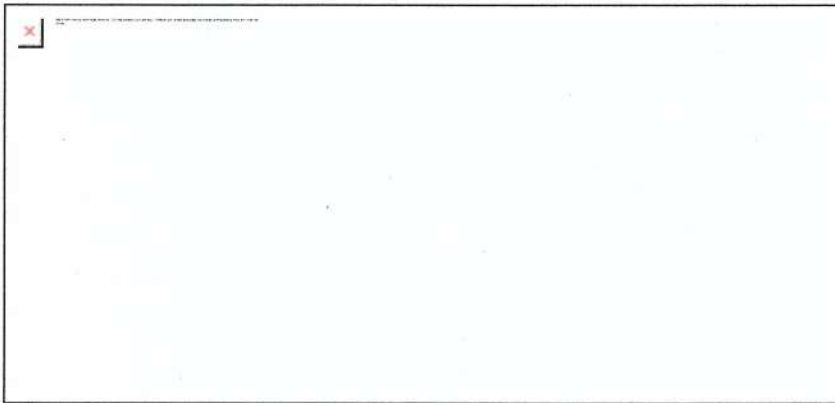
Hi Ryan,

I just thought I would drop you a line about the proposed changes to Upstairs Cabarets capacity. As a former operator of Tommy Africas Nightclub in Whisler B.C. and a former part time Upstairs staff member I would like to shed some light on this topic.

I believe that the Proposal should be approved for the following reasons;

- Upstairs Cabaret has the most professional security team I have ever worked with. People are safer under their qualified supervision
- Upstairs Cabaret will be able to book bigger and more exciting Bands, Groups and Dj's. This will help to increase the draw of Victoria's nightlife to tourists and locals. In my opinion this is one thing that the area could use a lot more promotion to its culture. (I was very pleased to Sugar become the Capital Ballroom.
- With the opportunity to have more guests they will be able to provide more jobs and increase the reach of their already amazing corporate culture.

I hope this email helps to illustrate my point and is considered in your decision. Have a great day.



Alex Campbell

Owner/Operations Manager
Flying Squirrel Victoria B.C
604-902-

1820 | Alex@flyingsquirrelsports.ca | www.flyingsquirrelsports.ca
Viewfield Rd. Esquimalt B.C V9A 4V1





Ryan Morhart

From: Alex - vivid [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017 11:32 AM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in Victoria for some time now and have partaken in my share of nights out on the town over the years. I have frequented many of the nightclubs around town but have found that I have my favorite. Upstairs, is not only the most fun club in town but it has been the place that I have gravitated to and chosen to go to time and time again.

I was there this weekend and noticed the sign on the door and figured I would put my opinion out there. Upstairs is hands down the best club in town. Obviously, it is a great time to party and drink. However, I feel that what really separates this nightclub from the rest is the way that it is run. The management there is hands on, talking to people, helping out to keep the place running smoothly. I have seen one of the managers with a stack of glasses and picking up ice or limes from the floor. I have never seen a mess for more than a couple of minutes before someone is there to clean it up with help from one of the security team making sure that it is done quickly and efficiently, thus ensure the best experience for there customers.

Which brings me to my next point, the doormen. Over the years I have seen all sorts of stuff going on from the doormen at other places. At upstairs they are always attentive, calm and clear the to ensure that everyone is safe and is having a good time. They take their job seriously and seem to all be on top of everything that is going on at all times. The head doormen have a tough job and take their responsibility seriously, yet still make sure their team is respectful and the club is safe. With an increase in capacity upstairs will be able to allow more people to enjoy the best cub in town. The security is tight and can handle it I'm sure. The management is already on top of it all and can also handle the increase easily with the doormen to back them up. Over and above that an increase in capacity will get more people off the streets late at night where it is colder and they have could get up to mischief or hurt themselves, and into a safe fun environment. More people in the club means more business for the club, which is better for the Economy of Victoria. Having a great, well-run club where people can get in to right away and not have to be wandering the streets will draw more people to downtown. Also with an increase in capacity, I believe they may be able to get better artists coming in, that could also help drive more tourism and money to Victoria.

All in all, Upstairs is the place I choose to spend my weekends above anywhere else in the city. I write in because I want more of my friends and people in Victoria to get to enjoy this wonderful club, be safe and have fun every weekend.

I hope you take my opinion into consideration when you are making your decisions.

Thank you,

Alex Castello | Sales Support

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Ryan Morhart

From: Andrew Sherry [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 12:28 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Venue Capacity Increase Victoria BC

Hello, City of Victoria!

I was attending a show over the weekend at Upstairs Cabaret in Bastion Square with my fiancé, her sister, and boyfriend. We noticed an application on the door for increased venue capacity, and I wanted to send in my thoughts.

We typically like to go out for dinner on weekends at local restaurants, then catch a live show at one of the local venues if anything catches our interest. These days we've found ourselves visiting Upstairs more often than our other options for a few reasons:

- First and most important to me: It is the safest environment vs other venues we've visited in downtown Victoria. I'm now 30 years old and want to be around mature people who are there to enjoy a good evening whether it be a dance, drink, or conversation. It's also the one place my Fiance and her sister feel they can go and dance without feeling objectified - It's rare they don't have a night out somewhere else without a pinch or comment from some a young man. There's no shortage of engaged, friendly door-men and find myself greeted with a smile when thanking them at the end of my night.
- It's a very clean venue: There's a constant stream of staff moving around, bussing glasses and wiping tables/chairs for the next group of people to take a seat. It doesn't smell like a bar, and I like the idea of not having to worry about slipping on a spilled drink or broken glass. It was nice to see (who I'm assuming was) the manager take a moment and work right beside his employees and bussing some glassware with them before welcoming a group into the VIP area.
- The live acts, and DJ cater to many different ages & demographics: This likely has nothing to do with the capacity increase, but It's nice to be able to go out and have a conversation with the person beside you, and still be able to hear yourself. The DJ seems to pay more attention to the crowd and transition between all genres of music so everyone can have a good time. The live acts that perform are great for us old guys and bring in people from other cities. I attended a Tom Petty tribute night with some friends from Vancouver and Comox Valley; It was fantastic. I would assume Upstairs wants to be a good neighbor as I noticed they have someone monitor their dB levels in and outside of the bar.

This probably attributes to why they're so busy.

Now, I do support increasing the capacity. The number one reason - Inside the bar is a safe, controlled environment versus potentially being exposed in bastion square - This might help alleviate stress from the local police force?

Having successful local businesses in the heart of downtown Victoria is a huge contributing factor to our growth in tourism, in a small radius that was once bustling, it's nice to see some of these businesses pushing to grow, and support their community.

I appreciate your time reading this, and hope City Council sees the benefit in supporting a professional

establishment like Upstairs Cabaret.

Andrew & Sarah,

--

Andrew Sherry

Ryan Morhart

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From: Brayden Klein <bklein@sothebysrealty.ca>
Sent: Saturday, December 2, 2017 8:13 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret: Liquor License Capacity Increase

In regards to the public notice requesting comment posted at Upstairs Cabaret:

Let the record show my support of Upstairs Cabaret's application to increase their liquor license capacity.

I have long frequented the downtown core for both business and pleasure, and am an enthusiastic participant in this city's vibrant nightlife.

Over the years, Upstairs Cabaret has proven to be one of the most professional and enjoyable establishments Victoria has to offer. It is always one of the first places I recommend musically inclined clients and tourists visit.

As it stands, the capacity at Upstairs should certainly be increased.

Too many nights I have experienced Bastion Square crowded with people waiting in line, making noise, and obstructing foot traffic, only to find the club inside less than full.

I have found the Upstairs security team to be one of the most effective and professional in the business and am sure that ensuring these crowds are inside and supervised by the Upstairs team, as opposed to disturbing the public would be a great improvement both in terms of general safety, and comfort of both local residents, and concert attendees.

Upstairs has a long history of showcasing fantastic local and international musical talent on their stage. An increased capacity can only be a positive move for Victoria's tourism industry, and arts communities as it is sure to incentivise bigger, more popular acts to make the effort to travel to Victoria to perform.

In summary, an increased capacity at Upstairs Cabaret is sure to be a positive change for tourism, the public, and Victoria's nightlife in general.

For your information, my home address is:

1711 Kings road
Victoria, BC
V8R2N9

Regards,

--
Brayden Klein
Realty Assistant



Sotheby's International Realty Canada
752 Douglas Street, Victoria BC V8W 3M6
c [250.588.2466](tel:250.588.2466) | o [250.380.3933](tel:250.380.3933) | f [250.380.3939](tel:250.380.3939)
bklein@sothebysrealty.ca
sothebysrealty.ca

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Ryan Morhart

From: Brian B [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 2:19 AM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret occupancy increase

To whom it May Concern

I am writing this Email to offer my support for the occupancy increase application at Upstairs Cabaret (15 Bastion Square). I support this increase for several reasons. The first reason being that I frequent this venue and feel that it's capacity is too small. It is annoying to have to wait in line because the venue is at capacity but when I finally get in there is ample room for more people. I would much rather be inside having fun and spending money than standing outside in the rain and wasting my time for no good reason. The second reason is that Victoria now only has two major nightclubs (one of them being Upstairs Cabaret) and this has placed more demand on them. That means more people are going to Upstairs Cabaret and having to wait outside to get in even though there is space inside. The third reason I support this is because I support a vibrant Victoria nightlife where there are more entertainment options, not limited ones. I think this is good for both Victorians and Tourism in general because it brings more people downtown, which in turn generates tax dollars.

Thank you,

Brian Bassendowski

Ryan Morhart

From: Cameron Franceschini [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2017 8:09 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret Capacity Increase Request

To Whom it may Concern,

I have been a concert promoter and very active member of the Victoria music scene for the last 8 years and recently attended the Lil Windex show at Upstairs Cabaret and saw the notice posted on their door about their capacity increase request and would like to offer my opinion, and support for them.

I have worked with many venues, and many security teams in both Victoria and Vancouver and all of them pale in comparison to what Upstairs Cabaret has to offer. Their security is aware of everything going on in the room and constantly in communication to stop any problems that might arise before they do, and if they do, they are handled in a calm and collected manor. If any security team could handle more patrons, it would be Upstairs Cabaret's.

In addition an increase of capacity would mean they would be able to bring in bigger acts, which will help benefit tourism, as well as help the local music scene grow. There are unfortunately few venues in Victoria that are able to cater to higher mid-level bands and performers. Bands that would otherwise love to come to Victoria or the island are unable to because they are too successful to be playing in a community center gym, but not big enough to be able to play Save on Foods Memorial Center. Upstairs Cabaret has already housed some amazing shows and acts ranging from French-Canadian folk, to hip-hop, to metal, and with a capacity increase they would be able to bring in more talented, diverse events that will introduce many new people to new music and art.

It would also be beneficial because it would mean there would be more people inside the building, than outside in line in Bastion Square. Some of the acts they are currently bringing in are drawing big crowds that sell out the venue, but unfortunately once you get past the line and into the venue it appears to be

half full at best. It seems odd to be attending a sold out show in a half empty room, with a line up through the square.

In my opinion there are many reasons why a capacity increase would be beneficial. It would bring more patrons to surrounding businesses, bring bigger and better acts to the city, as well as help the nightlife/music scene thrive.

Thank you for your time,

Cameron Franceschini



December 1, 2017

Manager – Permits and Inspections
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC

via email: rmorhart@victoria.ca

RE: Seating Capacity increase – Upstairs Cabaret

I am writing *in support* of the proposed increased capacity for Upstairs Cabaret in Bastion Square.

- As someone that enjoys live entertainment in the city, increased capacity would make it more viable to bring in Acts/Entertainers that are more costly. The increased capacity would allow the sale of more tickets and therefore ensure costs are covered for the operator. My husband and I (late 50's and 60's), as well as our friends, have enjoyed shows at Upstairs, such as their Comedy series, Blues and Jazz.
- Well managed venues in Victoria add to the offerings in entertainment to our visitors. As a city we have many wonderful activities for the tourist/ visitor to Victoria to enjoy during the day. I would suspect that currently most patrons at Upstairs are locals, so having more capacity would allow Upstairs to market some of their live shows to our visitors and ensuring that they could get in and not sold out when there is still space inside.
- Long lines outside of Upstairs are a regular occurrence. The potential for issues outside of the club are larger than inside the club, as the security on staff for Upstairs maintains safety for their patrons when inside. It is confusing for people that do not work in the industry to understand that they have to line up outside while there is still space inside, only because the magic capacity number has been reached. This can cause tension.
- And my personal peeve as a resident of Victoria (proper, not other municipalities) and a business owner downtown, is people urinating in the streets. Sadly this happens when people are forced to wait in line to get into a club.

Having worked in the hospitality industry in my first career, I fully understand that all safety and appropriate operational processes have to be in place and adhered to. I feel comfortable sending this letter of support because from everything that I have heard and observed, Upstairs Cabaret is a company that is well managed, cares about their patrons and offering a safe and fun entertainment venue.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christine Willow'.

Christine Willow, CMC RPR

Partner/Owner Chemistry Consulting Group & GT Hiring Solutions Inc.

①

Ryan Morhart

From: Cohen Nagel [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2017 11:16 AM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret

Hello,

After seeing the sign on Upstairs' door about increasing capacity, I believe this would be a great idea that would benefit everybody.

Upstairs has very fair doormen who handle every situation professionally but it is annoying when they have to hold the door and not allow more people in because they say they're at capacity. Once you finally make it into the club the room doesn't even seem that full. There is plenty of room for more people instead of having them wait outside in the cold. On top of that I've been to "sold out" shows at Upstairs and my friends couldn't get in but there was still clearly room for more people to see the concert. By increasing their capacity both the staff and customers would benefit.

Like me, plenty of students would like to see this change, but it would also be beneficial to the large amounts of tourists that visit this city. Upstairs is a very popular late night destination, and people visiting from out of town are eager to make the most of their time. Waiting in line for a long time is not ideal.

Thank you for your time,

Cohen Nagel

Ryan Morhart

From: Courtney Campbell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 2:37 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret

Hello,

I am writing this email in support of Upstairs Cabaret increasing their guest capacity. As a resident of Victoria, I value the nightlife options that a venue like Upstairs provides. It is great to have an entertaining and safe venue, that can accommodate locals and tourists for late night events. We frequent Upstairs Cabaret, and we love to bring our out of town guests their to have a taste of Victoria nightlife!

Thank you,
Courtney Campbell



[REDACTED]

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Ryan Morhart

From: David Bain <david@cheeseandmeatfestival.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 1:47 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret - Notice

Hi,

I have been informed that Upstairs Cabaret is looking to increase their capacity. I wanted to send in a note and show my support for this application. The Victoria region desperately needs more venue options that are attractive to the music industry. Victoria is seen as a secondary market and has to fight to be able to take part in touring acts. If Upstairs received a larger capacity it could be a huge economic driver of the local and international music scene. There is no other venue like it on Vancouver Island. Our larger capacity venues are horrible and leave the inability to give an experience like Upstairs Cabaret offers. Please use this email as a letter of my support.

Thank you,
Dave

--

David Bain
Director of Operations

Cheese and Meat Festival - 2018 Dates: Seattle April 28th | Victoria May 19th
www.cheeseandmeatfestival.com

E: David@cheeseandmeatfestival.com
T: At Request

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Ryan Morhart

From: Dorothy Hawes [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 2:18 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret

Hello there,

I am a long-time resident in Victoria and have been made aware of the application to allow greater capacity at Upstairs Cabaret. Given how well this establishment is run and the fine reputation it has in Victoria, I believe that council should be in support of this application. Often there are long lineups which create congestion in Bastion Square, so allowing increased capacity is a good solution.

A supportive resident,

Dorothy

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Ryan Morhart

From: Earl Wilde <ewilde@victoriaregent.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 11:56 AM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret Application

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are in receipt of Notice of Application to increase allowable occupancy at the Upstairs Cabaret, 15 Bastion Square, from the current 300 persons to 500 persons.

Please be advised that the Victoria Regent Hotel and the residents of Strata Corporation VIS 962 vehemently oppose this application. For the past 20 years, our front desk personnel and the management team have fielded literally hundreds of complaints from guests and residents related to the excessive bass and loud music emanating from the Upstairs Cabaret until 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning, thereby depriving these guests and residents of their right to quiet enjoyment. Despite numerous calls to the establishment management and to Police and Bylaw, the situation persists year after year.

There is little doubt that, if more people are allowed into the premises, the music volume will increase. Of course, we would also have to endure 200 more inebriated, rowdy patrons spilling out onto an already raucous Wharf Street in the middle of the night. This must surely raise alarm bells with the Victoria Police Department and is simply a bad idea.

We have been fighting this insanity for decades. Enough is enough.

Sincerely,

Earl Wilde, General Manager

Direct: 250-412-8101

Toll Free: 1-800-663-7472

Fax: 250-386-2622

E-mail: ewilde@victoriaregent.com

Website: www.victoriaregent.com



Ryan Morhart

From: Emma Sauer [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 12:53 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret

Hello,

I moved to Victoria nearly three years ago for university and Upstairs Cabaret has been my favourite place to go out ever since. The staff is amazing, always welcoming and truly care about their guests, I feel much safer there than any other club venue in town. I have heard they are hoping to increase their capacity and I hope they are given approval. I always take friends visiting from out of town to Upstairs, either for a night of dancing or to watch one of the great shows they put on. Upstairs is Victoria's nightclub, it is one of a kind and instantly makes you feel like you're in the right place. Thank you for taking the time to read this and considering my words when making your decision.

Best,

--

Emma Fitzpatrick-Sauer

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Ryan Morhart

From: Forrester Whitney [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017 12:15 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret : Occupancy Increase

Dear Victoria City Council,

I am writing in response to the Upstairs Cabaret occupancy increase notice. I would like to pass along my support as it will undoubtedly have a positive impact on current and future downtown businesses, as well as my personal enjoyment of one of Victoria's premium bars.

From my personal experiences and sharing experiences with my peers, a common issue I run into in Victoria is the lack of quality night life. Having a venue that can accommodate a larger event will attract bigger, better, and more performances/shows. This will bring more people downtown - more people that will tour the local bars, restaurants, and retail stores - driving the local economy.

I can appreciate that with an increase in their occupancy, I will spend less time outside in a crowded line up and more time inside enjoying my night. Additionally, the atmosphere of the venue will also improve as more people can attend shows.

As a long time Victoria resident and downtown patron, I have a deep appreciation for the professionalism and hospitality of the Upstairs Cabaret staff, especially the management and security team. I look forward to seeing growth in the city that I love, and having more fun on my nights out!

Thank you for your time.

Forrester Whitney

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To Whom it may concern;

Hello, My name is Freddy Mazereeuw and I am a long time patron of many business's in Bastion Square. I saw that Upstairs Cabaret has a notice on their door about increasing their capacity from 300-500 persons. I think this is a GREAT idea. Having been in the venue for many types of events and having the room not be "full", I questioned the staff there on why so many people are being left outside in the cold, for them to answer that it's a legal capacity issue. Upstairs has incredible staff and security teams and do an amazing job of controlling and keeping their venue a safe place for locals and tourists a like to catch all types of events. From concerts, to comedy to dancing.

I believe you would have a lot less issues with public problems such as noise, urination, fights etc in the area if the city allowed them to put patrons inside, rather than left outside. Let the people in, where they can be monitored and controlled and SAFE.

There has been many closures of nightlife venues in the city over the last few years, due to a number of factors. Upstairs Cabaret has, and continues to be, a well run and safe establishment for people of all ages. It would be a shame to see yet another company close in our city, that offers such amazing experiences for the community and the tourists that flock to the area in summer.

Thanks for taking the time to read my input, and chalk me up in the "in favour" column of the notice.

Thank You,
Freddy Mazereeuw

G.F. Hauck

1650 Wascana Highlands

Regina, Sask., S4V 2K7.

City of Victoria: To whom it may concern.

I am one of the owners of the Victoria Regent Hotel at 1234 Wharf St., V8W 3H9.

I am totally and completely opposed to the "Notice of Application" submitted by Upstairs Cabaret for an increase from 300 to 500 persons.

Our management team has worked very hard and at great expense to promote our hotel as an upscale destination of visitors to Victoria. Unfortunately we are having extreme difficulty retaining repeat customers. Singularly the most consistent and negative feedback we receive from our guests is the amount of noise pollution they experience. They cannot get to sleep.

This problem exists not only in the early and late evening but extends in the early hours of the following morning. (2:00 to 3:00 AM)

I cannot exaggerate or overstate the volume, extent and duration of this ongoing problem to the wellbeing of our guests, our resident owners and our hotel operations.

(2)

In terms of lost revenues and added promotional expense to acquire new clientele over the years, we have suffered losses in six figures.

Despite our best efforts in confronting the Owners and management of Upstairs Cabaret and trying to get the City Police to enforce the bylaws, nothing changes. We continue to be subjected to this unjust situation.

We have been grappling with this as long as I have been an owner.

To increase an already intolerable level of noise by this establishment is unfair, unjustifiable and totally wrong.

Please, I urge you in the strongest possible terms to reject this application in its entirety. To allow even 1 more patron is too many.

Anything but a complete rejection of this application is acceptable to myself.

Thank you for the opportunity to make you aware of how negatively this application will impact the Victoria Regent Hotel and its owners.

Yours truly,

G.F. Hauck

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Ryan Morhart

From: Jay Forbes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 3:23 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret capacity

Greetings. My name is Jay Forbes and I have been a frequent patron of Upstairs Cabaret for over 10 years and have performed there as a musician on many occasions. It's posted on the door that they are applying for an increase in capacity from 300 persons to 500 persons and that anyone who would like to express an opinion is invited to send comments to this email so that's exactly what I'm doing.

I think increasing Upstairs occupancy would have nothing but positive results.

I'm saying this as a patron of that business because it would result in not having to wait in line for long periods of time. The line up can be cold during the winter and frustrating when there is a show you want to see or an event you wish to participate in and you cannot get into the venue because it is at capacity. I've been in Upstairs during sold out events while my friends are waiting to get in and it seems that there is lots of room for more people but no one can enter because the legal limit is 300.

As a performer it is always my goal to get as many people out to a show as possible and more people allowed into the venue means more people to support local musicians. It also gives us as musicians the potential to make more money based on ticket sales.

And finally as simply a Victoria resident I believe allowing more people into the venue would relieve the congestion that occurs in Bastion Square during events at Upstairs Cabaret. More people would be in the venue under security supervision which is in the interests of public safety, more money will be spent which is in the interest of Victoria's economy and there will be fewer people in the streets to potentially fight, vandalize or urinate in public areas.

Thank you for allowing the public to have a say in this and taking the time to read my comments.

Jay Forbes

2216 Tarn Place
Duncan, BC V9L 5K4

November 20, 2017

Manager, Permits & Inspections
Sustainable Planning and Community Development Department
1 Centennial Square
VICTORIA, BC V8W 1P6

**RE: Notice of Application for Structural Change to a Liquor Primary Liquor Licence:
Request an increased occupant from 300 to 500 persons.**

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am the owner of Suite 600 in Strata VIS 962 the Victoria Regent. My unit is currently in the rental pool comprising the Victoria Regent Hotel.

I write to **oppose** the increased occupancy at 15 Bastion Square (Upstairs Cabaret) from 300 to 500 for the following reasons:

- Increasing the number of persons under the influence of alcohol in the Bastion Square/Wharf Street area at closing time is ill advised. Victoria City Police and Bylaw Enforcement Officers are not able to **successfully** enforce the City ordinances at the current occupant level of 300. Increasing to 500 persons will only exacerbate the problem.
- Approving this application will add to policing and maintenance costs for the City with the resultant burden for the property taxpayer.
- The City has worked diligently to increase residency in the downtown area. Increasing the number of inebriated patrons after hours does nothing to further the downtown ambiance or residential experience. Enough is enough.
- The City has invested heavily to attract visitors to the area and expand the tourism industry. The Victoria Regent Hotel has one of the highest occupancy rates in the City. The hotel has received and reported to the City numerous complaints from hotel guests about patron noise and pounding bass. In addition to not providing the visitor experience Victoria is striving for this senselessly wastes the time of both City and Hotel staff. Again, enough is enough.

I hope to one day make my Victoria Regent unit my home. I respectfully request the City decline this application and retain the residential and tourism value of the Wharf Street/Bastion Square area.

Thank you.

Jo Bodard
Owner, Unit 600, Strata VIS 962
Victoria Regent Hotel Rental Pool Participant
Taxpayer

Ryan Morhart

From: Josh Noble [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 29, 2017 2:43 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Capacity Increase

I am writing in hopes to help persuade the increase in capacity at Upstairs Cabaret. I saw a posting on their door after waiting to get in for almost 40 minutes only to find the place seemingly not full. As a music fan I think the increase could also bring bigger musical performers to their stage and would be better for Victoria's music scene.

Thank you for your time,

Cheers

Josh

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Ryan Morhart

From: Justin Sparks [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2017 10:30 AM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret - Occupancy Increase

To Whom It May Concern,

I frequently visit Upstairs Cabaret on weekends and live music shows (Michael Bennard Fitzgerald just this past Sunday) and was notified they have submitted a request for an occupancy increase. I strongly support their request to increase occupancy numbers. Increasing their occupancy will not only reduce long wait times in line-ups but also allow more people to enjoy some of the amazing sold out concerts this venue consistently hosts.

Justin Sparks
119-643 Granderson Rd.
Victoria, B.C.
V9B 0J6

Ryan Morhart

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From: katie marciniak [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2017 2:46 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Increase of capacity @ upstairs

To whom this may concern:

Hi there! Hopefully I am in the right place and sending this to the right person!

I saw a notice posted that Upstairs Cabaret is trying to expand their capacity and that it was up to you guys to decide whether or not that was going to happen..

I frequently go to the many restaurants in the area as well as the venue and have noticed over the years that upstairs has always had extremely long lines flowing out into bastion square mainly because they are at full capacity.. believe me when I say I have stood in that line for a good hour before, waiting to get in.. I'm sure that if they had a larger capacity it would mean that there would be less line ups outside, which would mean more people inside getting to experience a part of Victoria's vibrant nightlife and less people standing around loitering in the square..

My boyfriend and I have gone there 2 weekends in a row now and we watched the staff handle any situation that arose very professionally and I applaud them for it.. it isn't always easy working in the nightlife industry but their staff always seem to go above and beyond.. they are hard working and definitely deserve to have more people in their venue..

I am also in the service industry and anytime a group of people from out of town comes to one of my tables and asks where the best place to go out is, I always recommend Upstairs or Darcys as I feel like they would really enjoy the experience they would have there ..

I hope this email gets to the right place and helps them out!

Happy Monday!
Katie M

J. Michael Hutchison, Q.C.

1218A Wharf Street

Victoria, B.C.

V8W 1T8

December 11, 2017

The Mayor and Council
City of Victoria,
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, B.C.,

Dear Madam Mayor and Members of Council:

**Re: Application to Increase the Permitted Occupancy of the
Upstairs Cabaret – Wharf Street**

My wife and I write to you to oppose the application to increase the permitted occupancy of the Upstairs Cabaret located on Wharf Street.

We live less than a block from the Cabaret, with our front door opening onto Wharf Street and our bedroom windows opening to the street. We moved to this location out of a genuine desire to enjoy the vibrancy of downtown Victoria, and, by and large, our expectations in that regard have been met.

In the four years that we have lived downtown, apart from a regrettable inadequacy in parking availability, essentially we are happy with our choice.

The Cabaret has been a source of some disruptions, particularly at 2 o'clock in the morning when the business closes and the large group of its patrons emerge onto the street. The current level of crowds of voluble young people (understandable since they have been in the party atmosphere inside the Cabaret for some time) do tend to gather at the late night food vendors directly across the road from our residence. Occasionally, and it is occasionally, there will be a disturbance likely caused by some overindulgence, but by and large it

[REDACTED]

is simply a matter of noise and it lasts for a relatively short time, perhaps half an hour.

We accept that noise and the presence of these young people as part of the vibrancy we were looking for when we moved downtown. By and large, the Cabaret seems to do a relatively good job of controlling noise and disturbance immediately surrounding the Cabaret, but of course when its patrons move away down the block they are out of that control.

One unpleasant aspect of the presence of large groups massing after the Cabaret closes, is the not infrequent occasions that we find that our doorway entrance to our condominium has been used for urination or vomiting. That does not occur every night, but often enough that it is not just an unpleasant rarity. Once again, we have accepted that as an aspect of living in the proximity of lively night time businesses.

However, the idea of increasing the number of patrons as proposed in the application you are considering leaves us concerned. There is already an inadequate supply of parking in this area, and we understand that the City intends to proceed with the installation of a bike lane along our side of Wharf Street that will eliminate the existing parking (which is an entirely separate problem, particularly for us as it will deny parking access for service vehicles and delivery services that we use).

The inevitable effect of increasing the numbers of patrons will be to increase the numbers of inebriated young people on the street, likely to mill around the food outlets across the road from us (they themselves have not posed a problem for us, and it is probably advisable that there be some access to food at that time of night) and the increased numbers will lead inevitably to more confrontation, noise and disruption immediately below our bedroom windows. We also expect that such an increase in numbers will significantly increase the incidence of urination and vomiting in our home's doorway.

It will also increase the need for police services, which will increase the frequency of sirens on the street, not to mention the costs to the City.

Another consideration for us is the fact that my law firm offices are located at the Harbour Level of the Hartwig Court building. My clients

[REDACTED]

frequently access my office through the building from Wharf Street. Again, the entranceway to the building, like the doorway to our residence, is not infrequently used for urination and vomiting. Along with the issue of detritus that is left on the street after the crowds are gone, which is largely controlled by early morning street cleaning at its current level, the prospect of increasing amounts causes us to have significant concern that our clients will face an unpleasant entry more significantly than to date. Given the intention to remove the limited parking that currently exists, they will have to walk along that portion of the street from other locations where they are able, if they are lucky, to find parking.

We must respectfully request that you decline the increase sought by the Upstairs Cabaret. We have no desire to see the business cease, as it is part of the vibrant downtown scene which we moved to participate in, but cannot support its increase in size.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Michael Hutchison".

J. Michael Hutchison, Q.C

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kathryn C. Hutchison".

Kathryn C. Hutchison



Ryan Morhart

From: kyla kirby [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2017 2:51 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret: increase of capacity

Good afternoon,

While I was out over the weekend at Upstairs Cabaret I noticed a sign posted on front door regarding increased capacity.

I frequent a number of establishments around town for live concerts and Upstairs Cabaret has to be one of my favorite venues for concerts. It would be great for a venue like Upstairs Cabaret to be able to house larger acts. With an increase to the capacity it would also drive more musical talent to the island. I have experienced a number of times disappointed friends and colleagues that would have enjoyed shows but because they are "sold out" and are unable to purchase tickets because the room is too full. When you look around at sold out events at Upstairs the room never feels sold out. I have had conversations with some of the door staff asking why there are no more tickets and as they explain that this is what a full capacity looks and feels like. Empty rooms and disappointed customers is discouraging. It would be great to see the availability of tickets increase and bring more fans into one space.

Being a young female born and raised in Victoria our city's tourism continues all year round. Having more musical talent can bring success to our local businesses. I think it would be great to have Upstairs Cabaret be able to open the doors to more patrons at all their events.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will consider my opinion when making a decision.

Warm regards,

Kyla Kirby

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Ryan Morhart

From: Lauren Barnes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2017 7:11 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret Capacity

To whom it may concern,

I have lived in Victoria for about 3 years, and I've always been a part of the downtown nightlife. I often find myself in Bastion square for entry to Darcy's Pub and Upstairs Cabaret.

There have been countless times where I've tried to get into Upstairs, but the line is massive. The nights that I do get to the front of the line, I find it only looks half full in the venue, yet they were holding the line because they were at capacity. I love going into Upstairs; the staff is fantastic, efficient, and professional. From what I've seen, I think they would be able to handle more people with ease.

It seems like the current capacity limit for upstairs is just creating wasted space, when it could be flourishing from tourism.

Respectfully,

Lauren Barnes

Ryan Morhart

From: Lexus [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 3:39 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs capacity!

Hello,

I'm writing you on behalf of the capacity change at upstairs cabaret. I think you should up the capacity to 500 to keep the victoria night life population happy, as well as keeping the cold people that wait outside the club for hours in! This way there won't be as many altercations outside that the doormen can't do anything about as it is public property and it's pretty disturbing watching fights break out, especially fights that could be avoided over people "jumping in line" if there was no line it wouldn't be an issue. This is coming from a cold customer who has stood outside in line for far to long!!!! Please change it.

Thank you!
Lexus Bird

Ryan Morhart

From: DJ LOW [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 11:49 AM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret

Good morning,

I am writing in support of the application for capacity increase to Upstairs Cabaret.

Upstairs, and its current location, has always been a vital venue for Victoria's live music scene. It is a safe, professional, and fun place in the heart of the city.

An increased capacity would only allow for more people to enjoy this cultural hub.

Thank you for your consideration,

- Liam Orr

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Victoria resident, here while I complete my studies and I wish to stay here once I graduate. I am a very studious person, but enjoy a good night out downtown. One of my favourite places to go dancing at is Upstairs Cabaret. However, it really puts a damper on the night when we arrive fairly early just to be stuck in a massive queue. Now one might be excited about the massive queue, thinking that the venue would be full, but once my friends and I finally get ushered in, the venue is half empty. This is confusing and disappointing to both the locals and visitors in town. I am writing you this letter to make a formal request to have the capacity of Upstairs Cabaret expanded. This will open up the area of Bastion Square to be more accessible to visitors, while increasing the number of patrons who will be accepted into the venue to have a great night.

Please take my request into consideration.

Thank you for your time.

Marissa Young

Ryan Morhart

From: Matt Love [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2017 2:02 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret Capacity

To whom it may concern,

My name is Matt, and I am a local photographer and frequent club-goer. I spend a lot of time at different locations around town, but I spend most of my time at Upstairs. Whether I'm shooting an event for a production company, or just going out with friends, I've always found Upstairs has the best atmosphere, the best team of hard working (and friendly!) individuals, and the best overall experience that me or my friends could ever ask for. Recently I noticed the sign posted outside and personally wanted to reach out to give my opinion. Upstairs is by far the most professionally run place in town. The management, the bouncers, everyone handles everything there in a very impressive and professional manor, and with great efficiency. If there's ever a problem, it is solved faster than anywhere else I've been (not just in Victoria, but everywhere). It's like watching a well-oiled machine with all the working parts doing exactly what they need to do and it truly blows me away. I have never had a bad experience inside of Upstairs, and I have never heard of anyone else having one either.

I want to encourage that Upstairs have an increase in capacity, as I know for a fact that the team there can handle it with ease. I would love to see this already successful club do even better. Like I said, this place is extremely professional and they're doing a great job currently. They deserve to have more people having fun inside, and not waiting for so long outside. They consistently have LONG lineups every night, and I feel like all those people deserve to have their wait time cut, or eliminated all together. This will drive more sales, which will build even bigger shows and more success to a place that really, truly deserves it.

Thank you so much for your time and your consideration. Have a wonderful day.

- Matt

Ryan Morhart

From: Meghan Moric [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2017 9:43 AM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs cabaret

Hi there

I was just emailing my opinion about increasing the capacity of upstairs. I saw the note on the door since I attend shows and events at this establishment. I believe that increasing the capacity will cut back on the long lines that occur at upstairs.

I also believe that when they have shows they can't necessarily fill the room and it looks like the show isn't popular when in reality it is. If they can fill the room And these shows it will increase tourists coming to Victoria for them.

Just my opinion! Thank you for your time

Meghan
Sent from my iPhone

Ryan Morhart

From: Earl Wilde <ewilde@victoriaregent.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 1:30 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: FW: Notice of Application for Upstairs Cabaret

Another letter from one of our owners

Earl Wilde, General Manager

Direct: 250-412-8101

Toll Free: 1-800-663-7472

Fax: 250-386-2622

E-mail: ewilde@victoriaregent.com

Website: www.victoriaregent.com



From: mercedes moffat [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 1:20 PM
To: Earl Wilde <ewilde@victoriaregent.com>
Subject: Re: Notice of Application for Upstairs Cabaret

Dear Mr. Wilde:

As a condo owner at the Victoria Regent Hotel, I would like to register my opposition to the application presented to increase the allowable occupancy of 300 persons to 500 persons at the Upstairs Cabaret located at 15 Bastion Square.

The purpose of a hotel is actually to sell sleep. This being the case, cabaret noise, which currently penetrates the Victoria Regent Hotel, is already more than sufficiently annoying to guests and to staff who must deal with noise complaints.

I respectfully request that this application by the Upstairs Cabaret be declined.

Sincerely,

Mercedes C. Moffat

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the current proposed capacity expansion for Upstairs Cabaret.

I have lived in the downtown area of Victoria for 15 years over which time I have seen it's night life atmosphere change drastically. When I first moved here the options for a night on the town seemed almost endless. Slowly over the years I have witnessed the majority of Victoria's night life venues close their doors and for many of these venues this was the final result after many name changes and what I'm sure we're expensive renovations.

I can think of many good reasons to allow this capacity expansion from being able bring in larger more well known bands, to not having a square flooded with people waiting outside when they could be inside getting service in controlled environment but I think the most thing we need to keep at the forefront of this is we need to support our local businesses.

Upstairs Cabaret has been a corner stone of the Victoria nightlife scene for many years now and with no immediate residential impact I would see no reason to speak against this expansion what so ever.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to seeing the result of this attempted amendment.

Michael Donovan.

Ryan Morhart

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From: Nevil Meyer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2017 12:38 AM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Capacity.

As somebody who hates long lines and loves to frequent Upstairs I highly encourage and support upping the capacity. It's good for tourism, it's good for business, it's good for lowering public urination and that's just great for Victoria, British Columbia and Canada as a whole.

Cheers.

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Ryan Morhart

From: Quincy Leachman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 12:17 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret Occupancy Increase

Hi there,

I've noticed that Upstairs Cabaret is currently applying to increase its capacity from 300 to 500 persons. As someone who frequents downtown Victoria, and Bastion Square in particular, I think that this increase would be extremely beneficial for the area.

Currently the lineups outside of Upstairs are so excessive that they are filling much of Bastion Square, starting as early as 9PM. While this may not seem like much of an issue, it does pose a few problems. Fights, public urination, and noise pollution all occur when individuals, particularly those who have had a few drinks, are forced to wait outside due to capacity limits. If we could get these individuals out of Bastion Square and into Upstairs, they would have both restrooms and the supervision of Upstairs' security team, making the area safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

One of the other bonuses to having this capacity increase is that it would allow Upstairs to book more prominent acts. Many more popular performers won't perform at venues that can't hold 500 people. Increasing Upstairs' occupancy would allow those bigger performers to have these shows, thus drawing tourists and locals alike downtown.

Thank you for your time and considering my opinion on the matter.

Quincy Leachman

Ryan Morhart

From: Rebecka Hollstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 5:59 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret Capacity Increase

Hello,

I recently visited Upstairs on the weekend and noticed the posting mentioning their hope to increase capacity.

I frequently visit Upstairs and other venues in the city for their live music. Upstairs however, is a standout favourite. They hands down have the friendliest staff who treat everyone with the upmost respect for everyone who visits their establishment. You can see that it's everyone's common goal to make sure everyone who comes through their doors has a great time while feeling safe.

With that, Upstairs is also known for their line-ups. While no one likes to wait in line-ups, the safety factor of having upwards of 30-40 people outside in an uncontrolled environment certainly warrants for a capacity increase. Upstairs is a controlled, safe, professional, and thriving business in the heart of downtown Victoria. They handle any situation that comes up with a high sense of urgency always with their guests safety in mind. An increase in their capacity would allow this local business to grow as well as increase the safety of those guests outside their doors. Everyone deserves to have a good time on the weekend. It's a win-win.

Rebecka Hollstein

Ryan Morhart

From: ron jackson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, December 7, 2017 6:30 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret Liquor Extension

Greetings

My name is Ron Jackson and I'm a resident of Victoria and an occasional purveyor of the late night scene in Victoria. I was out last weekend saw the notice regarding the capacity increase of the Upstairs Cabaret. As a person who goes to this establishment every so often I felt compelled to write on their behalf. I like attending this particular venue mostly for the professional way it is run. It's a rarity with these kinds of places I find. They tend to operate more like a professional establishment and we feel safe going there. One thing we are often subject to although is a lineup outside and I must say after going inside and seeing few people actually inside the club I have complained a few times as I have felt they were leaving us outside in order to make the venue appear "desired". After seeing this notice I saw that I was wrong to have accused them of that and thought I could make it right with a quick letter on their behalf. There's a great place located in what appears to be a non-residential area and seem like the right choice for this kind of increase and we sure wouldn't complain about spending less time out in the cold outside of what always seems to be a half empty room inside.

Just my two cents. Thanks for reading

Ron Jackson

3132 Glasgow st. Victoria B.C

Ryan Morhart

From: Samantha Partington [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, December 2, 2017 3:52 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Increase Capacity at Upstairs Cabaret

Good Afternoon,

I noticed a posting at Upstairs Cabaret and thought I would express my opinion and support for them.

I have been going to Upstairs since I was 19 years old (now 28) and have always been treated with the upmost respect and kindness from the security team and the bar team. Over the years I have noticed that the line up to get into Upstairs gets bigger and bigger yet the club does not seem full once inside even tho they are at capacity. During shows they seem to be "sold out" but again once you are inside the club seems only half full. It would be great for tourism to have a larger capacity so that more people from out of town or even locals can enjoy a night on the town at one of the most respectful and fun clubs in Victoria and more people can support these great artists that Upstairs hosts!

With this being said I support Upstairs and their amazing staff and do hope they are granted this capacity increase.

Regards,

Samantha Partington

Hello, I am responding to the posting on the door of Upstairs Cabaret.

I am a Victoria native and am very fortunate to be so. People come from all over to take in this city and why wouldn't they? It has so much to offer!

Lately I have noticed that the lineups outside of nightlife establishments have increased but the rooms themselves seem far from capacity. This leaves people irritated outside without supervision instead of inside under the watchful eyes of a competent security team. Upstairs Cabaret handles the room very well and I've never felt unsafe there. The aftermath from crowds loitering in the square over the weekend leaves the grounds in a state that I can't help but notice on my walk to work in the mornings. I've also witnessed "sold out" shows with holes in the crowd which is discouraging both for the artist and the ticket holders.

Victoria is a growing hotspot for tourism and sometimes change is required to keep up. I am confident that Upstairs Cabaret will continue to provide outstanding service with an increased capacity. All my support for the team!

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sarah

Ryan Morhart

From: Shane Stoneman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 12:22 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret

Hello,

I just saw the sign posted on the door of Upstairs Cabaret and I thought I would take a moment to share my thoughts.

I'm 30 years old and have lived in Victoria for some time. Over the years I've had the chance to frequent all the evening entertainment that Victoria has to offer, and I can honestly say that the team and Upstairs does it better than everyone else. Their security is topnotch. The security at other places feels like an afterthought. Things get messy at those places, but I have never experienced that at Upstairs. Whoever runs their security team runs a tight ship both inside and outside the club.

To me it makes sense to have more people inside the space, than outside the space. Plus an increase in their capacity would do a lot to drive business. I'm a development banker by trade, and I think it would be better for them, for tourism, and for Victoria as a whole because a larger capacity means more tickets sold at a reasonable price point which means they can attract better acts/talent. Also attending a "sold out" show and walking into a room that is half full really ruins the atmosphere.

In conclusion, I want to express my support for Upstairs Cabaret. They seem to have a great team in place and this would drive business development which I am all for.

Thanks for your time,

Shane Stoneman
Business Development Bank of Canada

Ryan Morhart

From: Sophie <secretary@simair-law.com>
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2017 3:28 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret - Bastion Square Victoria

To Whom It May Concern,

Hello,

My name is Sophie and I am the legal assistant of #204 – 26 Bastion Square. I work for five lawyers who are all sole practitioner. The lawyers in this office practice mainly, but not exclusively, in criminal and family law.

I am writing to express my support of the capacity increase at Upstairs Cabaret.

I frequently visit Upstairs Cabaret and Darcy's in Bastion Square. I have the understanding that they are owned by the same owners. For me and all my friends, it is 'the places to be'.

Last time I was at Upstairs Cabaret, I noticed a sign on their door regarding the capacity increase. Since this is, in my opinion, the busiest night club venue in Victoria, it wasn't surprising to me that they have requested an increase in their capacity. My belief is that the reason this is the busiest night club is due to their amazing staff members. To be specific, the management team and the security staff. They always do a great job in trying to secure the safety of their patrons while allowing a fun and lively atmosphere.

I sincerely believe that a increase in capacity will only have positive results. There have numerous times where the venue will feel only half full while there are hundreds of people in line outside. This in my experience results in frustrated unhappy patrons that are left waiting in a massive line. Usually the patrons in line are intoxicated from prior alcoholic beverages and being left to wait outside leads to problems the staff of Upstairs can't handle. Since the staff of Upstairs can only supervise the patrons inside, it would be a safe environment for more of the people waiting outside to be inside the venue. Under the safe watchful eyes of the security team, more patrons can have positive experience at Upstairs. This will also clear up Bastion Square for other people that are just using it as a pathway. I believe it will lead to less altercations in Bastion Square.

For these reasons, I am in complete support of the capacity increase at Upstairs Cabaret.

Respectfully,

Sophie

Legal Assistant to Geoffrey D. Simair, Michael J. Munro, Jeffrey B. Johnston, Andrew Uhlman & Christopher S.T. Mackie
204 -26 Bastion Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1H9
Phone: 250-385-4500
Fax: 250-385-4506

Ryan Morhart

From: Cam & Tanya Heartwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 3:12 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Capacity Increase

To whom it may concern,

I visited Upstairs Cabaret recently with my husband to attend a live show and noticed the sign on the front door to increase their capacity. I think this is a fantastic idea. It was a sold out show therefore the line to get in was long when we arrive. We waited in line, outside while they checked everyone's identification and took tickets. However, once we were in the venue it didn't look that full at all. We had some friends that wished to join us but were unable to pre purchase tickets online as the show was marked as 'sold out.' I found the manager and ask him if there were tickets available at the door, as the room didn't seem very full. He told me unfortunately not as they were only allowed to sell as many tickets as their capacity, which he said they were at. I found this strange, as the room seemed to only be half full. He then explained to me how this restricts what size of show's and live music they can have as they can only sell so many tickets. This is the reason their ticket price must also be much higher than they would like. I find this disappointing as Victoria is already lacking in establishments where you can spend a fun night out while feeling safe and well taken care of. From our first interaction with the security at the front door, to the lovely girl at coat check, the friendly bartender and the hard working bussers, we felt they were all their to ensure a safe and fun evening for everyone attending the show.

I think Upstairs having the ability to book larger shows and bigger artist would be great for Victoria's tourism. Victoria's nightlife has already shrunk exponentially over the past five or so years. It really hurts us to continually lose shows to Vancouver. Older demographics are traveling to Vancouver and spending their money there, as our young student population is forced to miss out, as they cannot afford traveling to Vancouver for the night. Let's bring these shows to Victoria and start to take some nightlife from Vancouver.

Upstairs is a well run, safe, friendly and fun environment. I would love to see them be able to bring over larger shows that more people can attend. Downtown Victoria use to be the place to be. As there are fewer places to go out these days I think people will eventually opt to stay in, instead of having to stand in line for hours to enter half full establishments.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts on this topic. I look forward to entering a buzzing, full Upstairs the next time I am out.

Kind Regards,

Tanya Heartwell

Ryan Morhart

From: Teresa Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 6:25 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs

Hello,

Thank you for considering upstairs cabaret for an increased capacity. I moved to downtown Victoria from Vancouver 3 years ago and enjoy nightlife. It would be great to see upstairs have the opportunity to be as "packed" as a Vancouver night club - one thing I really miss about the night life there. Upstairs is a really cool place, hope this increase goes through!

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Ryan Morhart

From: Terrilyn Hindle [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2017 6:51 PM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Capacity Upstairs Cabaret

Hello,

I am emailing in reference to the capacity at the night club Upstairs. I've attended events with friends where we have had to wait outside of a show that was sold out and when we went inside it looked empty. I discovered it was a capacity issue. More people could've enjoyed the show as well as not having to wait outside in the cold. I would like sent in my two cents to say an increase in capacity would help to solve this problem from occurring.

Thank you,

Terrilyn Hindle

Ryan Morhart

From: Thomas Doyle <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2017 11:09 AM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret Capacity increase

Hello,

It has come to my attention that Upstairs Cabaret has applied for an increase in capacity at their venue. As someone who visits upstairs relatively frequently I can testify that an increase in capacity at the venue would be beneficial to the patrons of the bar as well as the downtown area. In my opinion the long line ups that can occur at venues with undersized capacity can be off putting for people who wish to visit downtown Victoria for a night out, an increase in capacity at upstairs would allow more of its patrons to be moved off the cold street and into a safer more controlled environment. The staff at upstairs are very friendly and professional and have always handled any issue or conflict in a competent and passive manner. I have been visiting upstairs for a number of years now, and it is my top choice venue for live music or night out in Victoria, due to its great location, cleanliness, and reassuring staff. I believe the staff as well as the venue itself are well equipped to handle this larger capacity, and that it would be highly beneficial to Victoria's entertainment and music scene.

Regards,

Thomas Doyle

Ryan Morhart

From: Tj Trifoli <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2017 11:18 AM
To: Ryan Morhart
Subject: Upstairs Cabaret Capacity Increase

Hi there,

I happened to be out and about exploring downtown Victoria the other day and noticed the posting on Upstairs Cabaret's front doors for an increase in capacity, so I thought I would take some time to express my opinion on the subject!

I moved to Victoria from Toronto almost 3 years ago now and I've spent a lot of time in bars and clubs in downtown Victoria. They all have many positive's and of course there are areas that could use some work.

When it comes to Upstairs Cabaret, there isn't much to say other than they are the best in town. From the great location, to awesome shows like live bands, rap artists and supporting local talent, Upstairs covers it all. I've never been to a club where the staff makes you feel so welcomed and comfortable. The bartenders take time to learn your name and ask about your life, the support staff are always so friendly and the security team, well, from keeping their occupants safe to handling situations before they escalate, they always do the best job in town.

I believe increasing the capacity at Upstairs Cabaret would enhance the overall experience for it's guest because it would allow more people to be inside the club enjoying their night, instead of waiting outside in a line for people to leave. There has been times when I attend a show that is "sold out" but the club never feels as full as it could be. With a fuller club, it creates a more lively, energetic crowd for those artists and performers! Better crowds means better artists!

To wrap this up, Upstairs Cabaret is the place to be in town. Best team around and I think the increase in capacity would only be beneficial for the business' around and for the city itself!

Thank you.

[REDACTED]