



Corporate *NO: R061*

Report *COUNCIL DATE: March 26, 2001*

REGULAR COUNCIL			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	March 20, 2001
FROM:	General Manager, Planning & Development	FILE:	2156-001
SUBJECT:	Liquor License Capacity Increases Procedure		

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning & Development Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Instruct staff to proceed with the processing of the bulk increase capacity applications as described in this report.

BACKGROUND

On December 1, 2000, new liquor licensing regulations came into effect. These regulations include possible opportunities for increased patron capacity within existing licensed establishments. Hotel pubs and lounges, neighbourhood pubs, marine pubs and cabarets can apply for an increase to their licensed capacity to coincide with their building occupancy load based on the Fire Code or to increase their current capacity by 50%, whichever is less.

In anticipation of a high number of applications, the Liquor Control & Licensing Branch (LCLB) developed a bulk application process. Eligible licensees were notified by LCLB in November and were given until December 15, 2000 to respond to the LCLB in order to be considered in the bulk process. Province-wide, 763 applications were received by LCLB. Of these 763 applications, there are 24 within Surrey. The 24 applications in Surrey were forwarded to staff in February and are currently under review.

DISCUSSION

City staff have conducted a cursory review of the 24 applications forwarded by the Liquor Control & Licensing Branch (LCLB). The 24 applications are located on 20 sites: 2 sites in Whalley; 3 sites in Surrey City Centre; 5 sites in Guildford; 2 sites in Fleetwood; 1 site in Cloverdale; 5 sites in Newton, and 2 sites in South Surrey.

Prior to conducting detailed reviews of the individual sites, staff will be contacting each of the licensees to confirm their interest. Licensees will be requested to submit a liquor license application and requisite fee (\$1,070.00) to the Planning & Development Department.

Once each application is received, staff will undertake a detailed review. A technical review in terms of Zoning By-law compliance including, amongst other things, parking consideration and Building Code compliance will take place, and input will be requested from By-law Enforcement and Licensing and the RCMP. Following the staff review a report on the applications in each area will be prepared for Council's consideration with a separate recommendation for each application.

It is anticipated that the referral to Council for consideration of the increased licensing capacity will be grouped by area. Council will be requested to provide a resolution supporting or opposing the requested capacity increases on an application by application basis. The Council resolution will then be forwarded to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch where the General Manager will make the final decision.

Applicants will be advised that staff will endeavour to complete the review and forward their applications to Council, within three months of receipt of the liquor license application and fee.

CONCLUSION

With recent changes to the liquor licensing regulations, licensees have been given the opportunity to increase their existing licensed capacity. The Liquor Control & Licensing Branch has forwarded 24 such applications to Surrey staff. It is recommended that Council receive this report as information, and instruct staff to proceed with the processing of the bulk increase capacity applications as described in this report.

Murray D. Dinwoodie
General Manager
Planning & Development Department

JR/kms

v:\wp-docs\planning\01data\jan-march\03191448.jr.doc
S 3/20/01 4:04 PM