



REPORT TO COUNCIL

To: **Mayor and Councillors**

Subject: **Extension of Pilot Program, Consumption of
Liquor in Parks and Public Facilities**

File #: 0110.00

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From: Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: February 25, 2022

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council extend the pilot program for the consumption of liquor in selected parks and facilities for every Friday and Saturday from 1:00pm to 8:00pm, and every Sunday from 1:00pm to 6:00pm for the period of July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022.
2. THAT Council approve \$20,000.00 from the Enterprise Fund to cover the additional resources required to support the pilot program for the consumption of liquor in selected parks and facilities.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval to extend the pilot program for permitting consumption of liquor in selected parks and public facilities in the City for 2022.

POLICY:

Not applicable.

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:

The City approved a pilot program in 2021 to permit liquor consumption in selected parks and public facilities. The pilot program ran from July 1, 2021 to September 30,

2021, every Friday and Saturday only, from 1:00pm to 8:00pm. The selected sites included:

- McBurney Plaza;
- Selected area in Douglas Park; and
- Picnic shelters at City Park.

The City provided additional resources for Bylaw Enforcement, security guards, collection of garbage, recycling, organic waste, litter pickup, portable toilets, and signages to support the pilot program. Staff observed that the public did not generally use the portable toilets and we had to call for maintenance on a regular basis due to vandalism or the toilets being pushed over on its side. The provision of portable toilets should not be provided if the program continues.

The City conducted an on-line survey during the pilot program to provide the public with the opportunity to comment on the pilot program. An evaluation report of the pilot program was presented to Council at the October 18, 2021 Regular Council meeting. The pilot program was generally successful and supported by the public which allowed people to host family events such as wedding anniversaries and children's birthdays at a safe outdoor gathering place. Some respondents want expanded hours and days to fit all schedules (add Thursday and Sunday, or add any night up to 8pm). There were still concerns raised by some respondents that stated liquor consumption should not take place in parks and public spaces due to drunkenness, dangerous behaviour, crude language, smoking marijuana, and vaping. The majority of the complaints received were not related to unruly behaviour due to drinking but for smoking, leashes on dogs, loitering, drug dealing, overnight camping, and after-dark loud partying.

Based on the comments received from the on-line survey and taking a balanced approach from our experience from the 2021 pilot program, it is recommended that the City continue with the pilot program for the consumption of liquor in selected parks and facilities in 2022 but expand the pilot program to include every Sunday from 1:00pm to 6:00pm. The 2022 pilot program, therefore, will run every Friday and Saturday from 1:00pm to 8:00pm, and every Sunday from 1:00pm to 6:00pm for the period of July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022.

A Consumption of Liquor in Parks and Public Facilities Bylaw will be drafted based on Council direction. The bylaw will establish clear guidelines and rules with respect to responsible consumption of liquor in selected parks and public facilities and it will come into effect on July 1, 2022 and it will be automatically repealed on September 30, 2022 if it continues to be a pilot program for 2022.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The estimated budget for the additional resources (e.g. Bylaw Enforcement, security services, collection of garbage, recycling, organic waste, litter pickup, and signages) to support the pilot program is \$20,000.00.

• Garbage/Recycling/Organic Waste Collection and Litter Pickup	\$ 6,000.00
• Security Services	\$ 13,000.00
• Signage	\$ 1,500.00
Total	\$ 20,000.00

An allocation of \$20,000.00 from the Enterprise Fund is requested to cover these costs.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. That Council discontinue the pilot program permit liquor consumption in selected parks and public facilities.
2. That Council permits the consumption of liquor in Parks and Public Facilities at all parks.
3. That Council permits the consumption of liquor in Parks and Public Facilities at selected parks.
4. That Council permits the consumption of liquor in Parks and Public Facilities with limitation to the hours or days at all parks.
5. That Council permits the consumption of liquor in Parks and Public Facilities with limitation to the hours or days at selected parks.

Respectfully Submitted,



Francis Cheung, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

1. Report to Council, Pilot Program Evaluation, Consumption of Liquor in Parks and Public Facilities