

RE: DEVELOPMENT OF CASINOS IN METROTOWN

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

ITEM	16
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	75
COUNCIL MEETING	88/11/28

1. THAT the recommendation of the Director Planning & Building Inspection be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1988 November 23

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING INSPECTION Our File: 17.812

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF CASINOS IN METROTOWN

PURPOSE: This report addresses inquiries of Council on the status of regulations for establishment of casinos.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 1988 November 14, Council received a report concerning an application for preliminary plan approval for a casino in Station Square in Metrotown. In its consideration of the report, Council adopted a motion that a moratorium be placed on casino applications pending the Metrotown social planning discussion. Council also had a number of inquiries regarding regulations for the future development of casinos. This report addresses those inquiries, and clarifies the present regulations governing the establishment of casinos.

2.0 MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS

The Burnaby Zoning Bylaw allows casinos as a permitted use in the C3 commercial district, under public assembly and entertainment uses. The proposed casino in the Station Square development in Metrotown is an allowable use under the CD Comprehensive Development zoning, which utilizes C3 guidelines.

The Licence Office of the Finance Department issues business licences to operators of casinos. The processing of an application for a business licence requires compliance with regulations pertaining to the Planning & Building Inspection Department, Health Department, Fire Department, and RCMP.

3.0 PROVINCIAL REGULATIONS

The B.C. Gaming Commission completed its report in 1988 January, and presented the findings to the Provincial Government. The report was released on 1988 March 11. Staff provided an overview of the findings and recommendations of the Commission, as well as other issues related to gaming, in a report to Council on 1988 July 11.

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One recommendation of the Gaming Commission was to limit the number of casinos in the Greater Vancouver area to the existing eight locations (one of which is in Burnaby) until 1989 April. This recommendation was received and supported by the Provincial Government. In the interim, the Commission will be monitoring the existing eight casinos in the Greater Vancouver area, and will be developing policies for locations of new establishments and relocation of existing establishments.

The Gaming Commission has informed staff that there have been recent amendments to their licensing procedure for casinos. In consideration of applications for relocation of existing casinos, and new casinos in the future, the Commission will require Council approval of the application prior to issuance of the license. Staff will therefore report to Council in the future for approval of all applications for casino establishments.

The Gaming Commission has informed staff that they will not consider any applications for new casinos prior to 1989 April. They will however, consider applications for existing operations to relocate, as a means of upgrading their facilities.

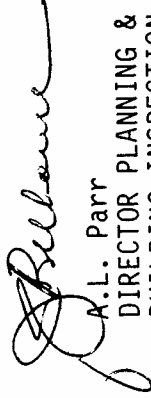
Staff have been in regular contact with the Gaming Commission, and have specifically raised concern that establishment of future casinos be done in consultation with the local municipality. Members of the Gaming Commission have assured staff that policy development will include municipal consultation.

4.0 DISCUSSION

The present application for a casino in Station Square in Metrotown will be considered by the Gaming Commission and the Gaming Branch because it is a relocation and an upgrading of an existing casino. Development of an additional casino in the former location in the Metro Center Hotel would not be considered by the Gaming Commission before 1989 April.

At its meeting of 1988 November 14, Council adopted a motion that the future issue of casinos in Metrotown be considered at the meeting of Council and staff on social planning issues in Metrotown. That meeting is proposed to occur early in the new year. Council will therefore have an opportunity to assess the need for municipal regulations for casinos prior to the lifting of the freeze by the Gaming Commission in 1989 April.

This is for the information of Council.


A.L. Parr
DIRECTOR PLANNING &
BUILDING INSPECTION

ALP
DLF/mcb

cc: Director Finance