

**TO: CITY MANAGER**

1996 July 04

**FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING**

**SUBJECT: GAMES AREAS IN LICENSED LIQUOR ESTABLISHMENTS**

**PURPOSE:** To advise Council of the proposed approach to deal with requests for expansion of games areas in licensed liquor facilities.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** this report be received for information purposes.

**R E P O R T**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

The Planning Department has recently received a request from the Oliver Twist Neighbourhood Pub regarding the expansion of the area dedicated for games within their facility.

Upon query, we ascertained that the B.C. Liquor Control and Licensing Branch issued an Operational Bulletin on 1995 July 11, amending the regulations for the maximum floor area for games uses for "A"; "C"; "D"; "F" and "I" licensed establishments.

**Existing Regulations for Games Areas:**

The former regulations for games areas in a Class "D" licensed facility (Neighbourhood Public House) with a maximum seating capacity of 65 persons was 20% of 123.5 m<sup>2</sup> (1329.25 sq.ft.) = 24.7 m<sup>2</sup> (265.8 sq.ft.) based on a maximum 1.9 m<sup>2</sup> per person plus 20% of their patio area (if applicable).

**New Regulations for Games Areas:**

The new regulations permit up to an additional 28 m<sup>2</sup> (300 sq.ft.) of licensed area for games if the area is dedicated for this use on a full time basis. None of the increased games area may be on the patio.

The total area permitted for games may be divided into smaller separate areas if desired by the licensee and may be applied for all at once or in stages.

Approval Process:

The Liquor Control and Licensing Branch must approve an application for an increase in games area. The local Liquor Inspector will require the following additional information:

- . The types of games to be placed in the dedicated games area are to be shown on a floor plan
- . Written input from local government is to be provided commenting on the request for an increase in floor area.

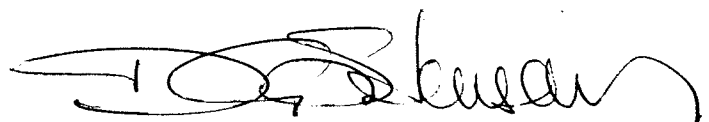
**2.0 DISCUSSION:**

We contacted six of the larger municipal jurisdictions in the Greater Vancouver Regional area to ascertain how they have been handling the requests for an increase in games areas in licensed facilities and what form their input to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch has taken. None of these jurisdictions has had any requests thus far and were not aware of the new regulations enacted in 1995 July.

The new regulations would seem to be minor in nature and would continue to allow different licensed facilities to offer different types of games such as dart boards, pool tables, pinball or video games for the use and enjoyment of their patrons. From a Community and Social Planning viewpoint, it is considered that this type of minor change would not have a significant impact on a licensed facility and provides the benefits of activities in liquor licensed facilities other than consuming alcohol. In the definitions of "AMUSEMENT ARCADE" and "BILLIARD HALL" in the Zoning Bylaw, the above-referenced class of licenses are specifically excluded from the definitions and games of these types are thus already considered a permitted accessory use in these liquor license facilities.

**3.0 CONCLUSION:**

It is proposed that unless otherwise directed by Council, the Planning Department would not oppose these minor increases and would advise the B.C. Liquor Control and Licensing Branch through the local Liquor Inspector as these matters are directed to this Department. Any unusual or problematic proposals would, of course, be forwarded to Council for direction.



D. G. Stenson  
Director Planning and Building

SAM/ds