

TO: CITY MANAGER 2004 AUGUST 17

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING File: 47000 20

**SUBJECT: ZONING BYLAW TEXT AMENDMENT REGARDING
ELECTRONIC PERSONAL PLAY BINGO IN GAMING FACILITIES**

PURPOSE: To seek Council authorization to amend the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw to permit electronic personal play bingo within gaming facilities.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council authorize the preparation of a text amendment to the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw to permit gaming facilities to offer electronic personal play for bingo only.
2. **THAT** the zoning bylaw amendment be advanced to the 2004 September 28 Public Hearing.
3. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr. Alan Dyck, Burnaby Bingo Country, #302 - 7155 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC V5E 1E0.

R E P O R T

1.0 BACKGROUND

On 2004 July 19, Council received a report regarding Rezoning Reference #04-31, advising of a request to rezone 7155 Kingsway (the commercial component of Highgate Village) to amended CD Comprehensive Development District (based on RM5 Multiple Family Residential District, C3, C3a, and C3d General Commercial District guidelines) in order to permit slot machines and electronic personal play bingo (Gaming House designation) in the bingo hall under development in Highgate Village.

The report indicated that permitting electronic personal play bingo might be appropriate given that:

- very few bingo halls in British Columbia do not have the electronic personal play bingo option; and
- in the view of staff, such a change in the type of gaming permitted in bingo halls would not be significant in nature.

At that time, Council adopted the following recommendations:

1. **THAT** Council deny the request to rezone the subject site to permit a gaming house instead of the bingo hall in Highgate Village.
2. **THAT**, if the applicant indicates that permitting the personal play option in the Burnaby bingo hall would be of assistance in maintaining economic viability, Council authorize staff to pursue the possibility of permitting personal play bingo in gaming facilities through a text amendment to the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw.

2.0 ELECTRONIC PERSONAL PLAY BINGO

Representatives from Burnaby Bingo Country have advised that the ability to offer electronic personal play bingo is very important to the economic survival of the bingo hall. They have indicated, however, that, in their view, the personal play bingo package should include electronic bingo as well as electronic side games such as pull tabs, scratch and win, Keno, and Lotto 649¹ which could be played on the same machine.² Burnaby Bingo Country representatives note that patrons already have access in the Burnaby bingo hall to paper versions of Keno cards³, pull tabs, scratch and win cards, and lottery tickets. In their view, offering some of the same gaming options on the electronic bingo machine is simply a convenience to patrons. Some commercial bingo halls, such as Planet Bingo in Vancouver, do offer electronic pull tabs and scratch and win games, modeled on bingo, in their electronic personal play bingo package. The City of Vancouver does not, however, allow slot machines in the bingo hall.

It is staff's view that there is very little difference between the electronic personal play side games and slot machines, in that wins in all the games are based on particular combinations of symbols. Given the similarity, staff are concerned that, were Burnaby to allow the

¹ At this point, British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC) has not made Keno and lottery tickets available on electronic bingo machines in British Columbia, and bingo hall operators contacted by staff are not aware that such a change is under consideration.

² Staff discussions with two separate BCLC representatives suggest that Lottery Corporation staff view personal play as applying to bingo only.

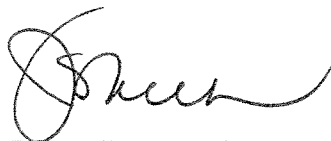
³ Keno is available in licensed liquor establishments, gaming facilities, and at some lottery retailers. In Keno, a player pays to select on a paper ticket up to 10 numbers from a field of 80. The player wins if his/her numbers match the 20 numbers selected electronically by the BCLC computer and displayed on a video board in the premises. The game is played every five minutes, with the 20 selected numbers being broadcast province-wide.

electronic side games, an argument could possibly be made in future that slot machines should be allowed under the existing zoning in that they are already, in essence, present. Staff, therefore, support the introduction of electronic personal play for bingo only. For the purpose of the bylaw, "electronic personal play bingo" would be defined as a game which involves playing bingo against a computer and independently from official group bingo games taking place in the gaming establishment, and in which the computer generates different number combinations for each player engaging in personal play bingo.

3.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Representatives of Burnaby Bingo County, which will operate the new bingo hall in Highgate Village, have indicated that the ability to offer electronic personal play bingo is very important to the economic survival of the bingo hall. They have indicated, however, that, in their view, the personal play bingo package should include electronic bingo as well as electronic side games such as pull tabs, scratch and win, Keno, and Lotto 649 which can be played on the same machine. It is staff's view, however, that there is very little difference between the electronic personal play side games and slot machines. Staff, therefore, support the introduction of electronic personal play for bingo only. This bingo-only position was the basis of the staff recommendation in the 2004 July 19 report to Council which requested authorization to pursue the possibility of permitting electronic personal play bingo through a text amendment.

It is recommended that Council authorize the preparation of a text amendment to the Burnaby Zoning Bylaw to permit gaming facilities to offer electronic personal play for bingo only. It is further recommended that the zoning bylaw text amendment be advanced to the 2004 September 28 Public Hearing.



J.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

BW/JS/sla

cc: City Solicitor
City Clerk

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