



Katherine Hahn
Business Development Manager
Steamworks Brewing Co.

August 16, 2021

Mayor and Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC, V5G 1M2

To Mayor Hurley and City of Burnaby Council Members,

We would like to submit, on behalf of Steamworks Brewing Co., the following letter for inclusion on the agenda of the Burnaby City Council meeting scheduled on August 30th, 2021

We propose and urgently encourage Council to consider establishing an avenue for City of Burnaby businesses to apply to make permanent the temporary outdoor expansion spaces which have been permitted under the *Active Sidewalks, Open Businesses* program.

As you are aware, the Province of British Columbia has established a roadmap for licensees to incorporate COVID temporary expanded service areas as permanent expansions to their LCRB-licensed floorplans. This amendment to Liquor Control and Licensing Regulation was made by the Province with the explicit goal of supporting the hospitality industry's economic recovery through and following the pandemic, and is a recognition of the enormous value these expanded service areas provided both licensees and their customers over the past two years, and the value which they will continue to provide during the recovery phase and beyond. However, this initiative is meaningless without a similar commitment from municipalities.

Allowing temporary outdoor expansion spaces to become permanent or seasonal fixtures on Burnaby's streets will not only benefit the associated businesses, but will contribute a net benefit to the community at large by, in Mayor Hurley's own words, creating "vibrant and lively" commercial streets that serve to draw visitors to the neighbourhoods where they are featured. As domestic and international tourism begins to return to British Columbia, we believe it is in the interest of Burnaby's business community to ensure that our City competes as an appealing destination for visitors seeking to explore the Lower Mainland. Maintaining pleasant outdoor patios and appealing commercial streets is a simple means of appealing to these visitors and nurturing the economic impact of increasing tourism to our local region.

We believe permanently permitting street patios is consistent with Council's agenda to create and maintain policies that enhance livability and maintain a viable local economy in the City of Burnaby. Our proposal suggests a straightforward avenue to do exactly that – support local business, nurture positive street culture, and continue to provide what have become much-loved social amenities. In this case, residents and visitors to Burnaby have voted with their feet, if the bustling, busy street patios that can be observed on any given afternoon around the City are any indication. Even better, the two-year duration of the pandemic and associated temporary program has allowed a significant test case period on which the balance of benefits associated with these spaces can be confidently evaluated.

Taking our own outdoor space at Steamworks Brewing Company (3845 William Street, Burnaby) as a case study, the impact of this two-year expansion has been enormously positive. Our customers love the option to sit outdoors on temperate days (sometimes even in the rain!), and the presence of the patio has



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served to bring usability, community, and a sense of life to William Street. As there are no paved sidewalks or other public amenities in the immediate area, the positive impact of the patio on the streetscape has been particularly apparent to anyone who regularly frequents the neighbourhood. Further, we have not recorded a single negative issue to date in the two-year existence of the patio: no neighbour complaints, no by-law infractions, no customer injuries or property damage, and no related traffic incidents on the street surrounding the patio. We are proud of our patio and the resilience it permitted our tasting room operations as we navigated the business conditions created by the pandemic. We cannot speak for other Burnaby businesses that participated in the *Active Streets* program but feel confident that they would share our positive sentiments.

It is our sincere hope that Mayor and Council will consider this proposal with due haste and instruct city staff establish a suitable roadmap for interested businesses to incorporate these spaces as permanent fixtures without unnecessary delay.

Thank you,

Katherine Hahn

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July 23, 2021

Mayor and Council
City of Burnaby
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2

RE: Patios and Parklets

Mayor and Council,

On behalf of Tourism Burnaby, please take this letter as a statement of our support for an extension of the Active Sidewalks, Open Businesses program, or the introduction of another similar program allowing outdoor food and beverage service to continue on municipal land where appropriate.

I served on the Burnaby Business Recover Task Force this past year, and many businesses and local residents benefitted from the new regulations.

Currently, many overnight visitors to Burnaby leave the city to visit neighbouring communities such as Vancouver or the North Shore which have been able to promote a variety of unique experiences in pedestrian-friendly areas. Allowing Burnaby residents and visitors the same opportunity to appreciate Burnaby while socializing with friends and family in our spectacular outdoor settings we believe should continue.

Additionally, the “parklet” concept introduced by Steamworks tasting room here in Burnaby is a visitor experience that we have been able to promote over the past several months and is an exciting addition to the city that we hope can continue post-pandemic.

On behalf of Tourism Burnaby, its’ stakeholders and Board members, we hope to see outdoor food and beverage service continue in Burnaby neighbourhoods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Chris Peters' in a cursive, flowing script.

Chris Peters
Executive Director
Tourism Burnaby