



City of Vancouver *Land Use and Development Policies and Guidelines*

Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability Department

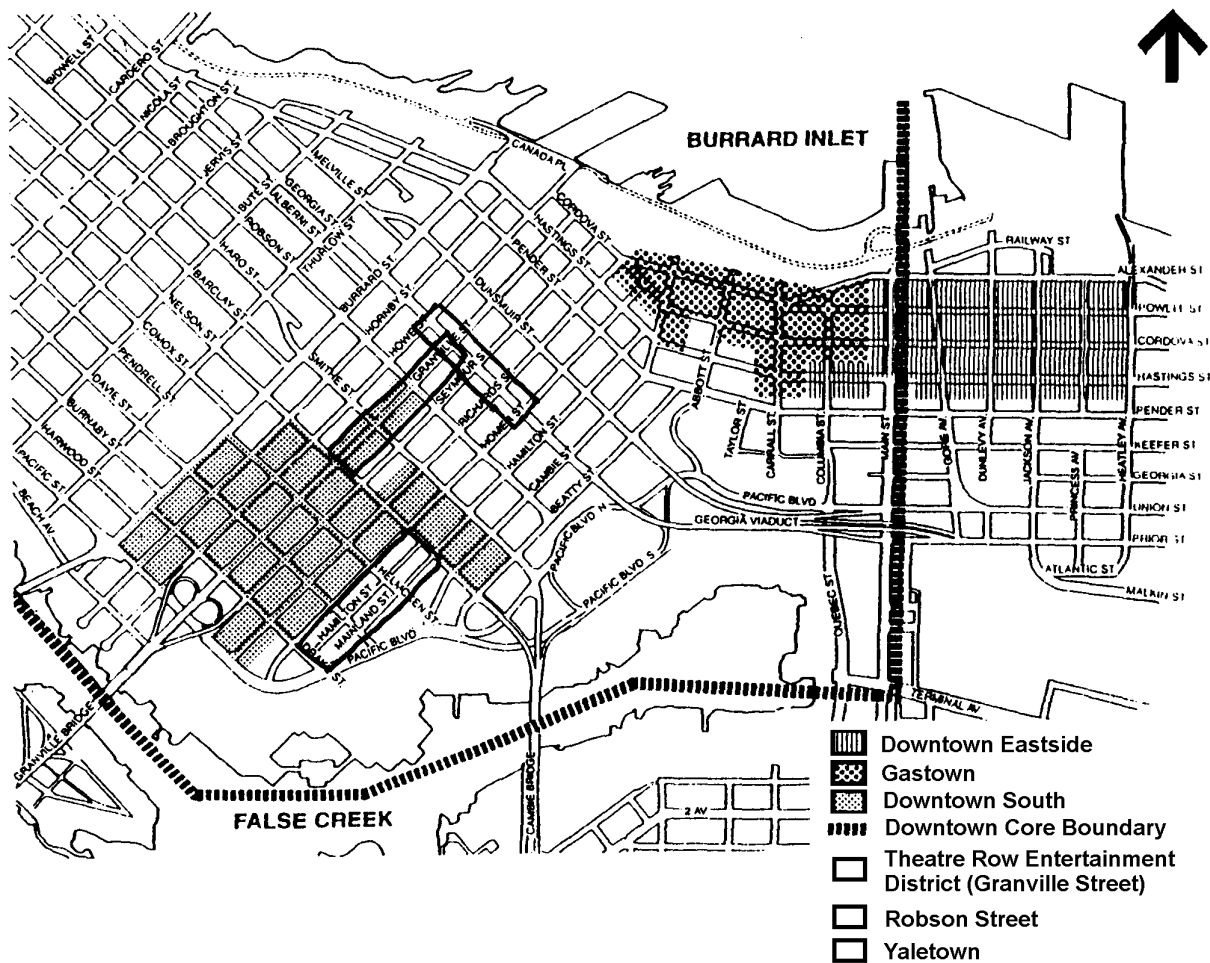
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CABARET AND RESTAURANT GUIDELINES

(Including Establishments with Exotic Dancers and Strippers)

Adopted by City Council on August 9 and October 4, 1988

Amended March 14 and August 1, 1989, October 16 and November 6, 1990, May 28, 1992,
April 21, 1994, June 19, 1997, December 11, 1997, October 31, 2000, and July 20, 2022



These guidelines are to be used in conjunction with a district schedule of the Zoning and Development By-law or with an official development plan by-law for development permit applications for a cabaret, or for a restaurant with dancing or entertainment involving three or more persons or the use of an amplified musical instrument (Restaurant - Class 2), including any increases in capacity or redevelopment of the premises. Cabaret and Restaurant - Class 2 are defined in Section 2 of the Zoning and Development By-law. The Liquor Licensing Policies and Procedures should also be consulted.

On April 21, 1994, Council directed that applications for establishments with exotic dancers or strippers be processed as “similar to” cabaret, and that these guidelines also apply to such establishments.

On June 19, 1997, Council approved new policies for the Theatre Row Entertainment District and other areas. These are outlined in Liquor Licensing Policies and Procedures.

- (1) For any proposed development, a cabaret, restaurant - class 2 or establishment with exotic dancers or strippers should not be located abutting, with or without the intervention of a street or lane, a residential use, R district, school, church, community centre, hospital or other institutional building where activities may take place in the evening.
- (2) For any proposed development, parking spaces and vehicular access to parking spaces required or provided should be oriented and located so they do not abut, face or adversely impact any residential or hospital use or R district.
- (3) For any proposed development, except within a new hotel outside the Downtown Core, a referendum polling residents and businesses within a 2,000 foot (610 m) radius should be carried out at the expense of the applicant (similar to a Neighbourhood Pub). At least 60% of those polled should approve the proposed development.
- (4) For any proposed development, except in the Theatre Row Entertainment District (the 700, 800 and 900 blocks of Granville Street), within a new hotel inside the Downtown Core, a referendum polling residents and businesses within a 1,000 foot (305 m) radius should be carried out at the expense of the applicant (similar to a Neighbourhood Pub). At least 60% of those polled should approve the proposed development.
- (5) Favourable consideration should be given to relaxing the one mile minimum distancing requirement for endorsing several applications for Class D “local pubs” on Theatre Row, Robson Street (Howe to Homer), or Yaletown, subject to a legal agreement indicating there will be no outdoor patio seating, off-site sale, exotic dancing, amplified music or a dance floor on the premises, and that it will not be operated in combination with an adjacent restaurant.
- (6) Favourable consideration should be given to endorsing one larger cabaret, up to a maximum of 1,000 seats in a non-residential area of the downtown, preferably one identified as appropriate for an entertainment focus, subject to the applicant providing research from other cities demonstrating the economic feasibility of such an establishment, an analysis of the effect it would have on other entertainment venues in Vancouver, and an analysis and strategy to deal with any social or neighbourhood impacts.
- (7) For any proposed development, the applicant should provide a report from an acoustical consultant indicating the soundproofing measures which will be taken to ensure that noise does not emanate from the premises.
- (8) For any proposed development, the building should be air-conditioned so that it is not necessary to open doors or windows, thus negating the soundproofing.
- (9) Any increase in seating capacity of existing cabarets is discouraged where they are adjacent to residential uses except for the Theatre Row Entertainment District. Where an existing cabaret is not close to and has no impact on any residential use, both physical expansion and increase in seating capacity (from 225 up to 350 seats) may be approved provided that the building meets all by-law requirements. The normal development permit process would apply, where necessary.
- (10) In the Downtown Eastside and Gastown areas new liquor licenses for Cabaret or Restaurant - Class 2, or amendments to existing licenses to increase seating capacity or extend hours of sale will not be permitted.
- (11) Development permits for establishments with exotic dancers or strippers should be limited in time to three years. At the end of the time limit, no further referendum should be required unless directed by the Vancouver Liquor Licensing Commission.

- (12) In cases where Time-limited Development Permit approvals for new or physical expansion of existing Class 'A' Lounge/Pub, Class 'C' Cabaret, Class 'D' Neighbourhood Pub or Restaurant - Class 2 licensed establishments are granted, they should be issued subject to the process outlined below:
- (i) The applicant files a pre-site application with the Chief License Inspector.
 - (ii) The applicant receives the endorsement of Council subject to the applicant acknowledging their understanding of the four-month Time-limited Development Permit process.
 - (iii) The applicant submits a Development Permit application. The Development Permit approval will be granted subject to satisfactory compliance with the relevant requirements of the Zoning and Development, Parking and/or Official Development Plan By-laws. A Development Permit approval may be granted for the new development, (i.e., change of use, new construction or construction of an addition to the existing facility) and would be limited in time to a four-month period subject to four-month renewals by the Director of Planning unless instructed otherwise by Council.
- (13) With respect to existing Class 'A' Lounge/Pub, Class 'C' Cabaret or Class 'D' Neighbourhood Pub licensed establishments seeking extended hours or increased seating capacity, Council endorse a process of requiring the holder of the existing Development Permit to relinquish that permit, and to apply for a time-limited permit.