



April 29, 2020

Mayor Kennedy Stewart and City Council
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor and Council,

Re: Flexible, Innovate and Expedited Patio Permitting

I hope you are safe and well. On behalf of the West Broadway BIA, I am reaching out in support of Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung's motion entitled Flexible, Innovative and Expedited Patio Permitting. Out of 280+ businesses in the BIA (10 blocks between Collingwood to Larch), there are 76 eateries. To recover from the impacts of COVID-19, their survival is dependent on removing impediments and implementing measures that support their ability to operate and serve the community.

Local businesses have expressed that they are hanging on as best as possible, they want to stay in the neighbourhood and they miss their customers, who are also their friends. Providing space for businesses to operate and for people to connect, will be essential for the health and well-being of the community at-large.

We are grateful for the City initiatives that have been launched to-date to respond to social distancing protocols, and facilitate more walkable spaces.

Some ideas to facilitate business operations while maintaining safety protocols, could be utilizing vacant units as pop-up dining / seating areas to provide more space for patrons, and seating areas in front of retail units that have larger frontages or areas that do not have window displays that would be obstructed. This could also be a way to animate the streetscape, and provide essential public spaces for people of all ages to connect with each other and improve their emotional and physical well-being.

Lack of social connections can be one of the greatest detriments to our health. In addition to providing timely and much-needed support for small businesses and local employment, the motion for Flexible, Innovative and Expedited Patio Permitting, will help communities across Vancouver maintain social distancing while staying socially connected.

Thank you and take care,

Michelle Barile
Executive Director, West Broadway BIA