

# REPORT

## *Community Services*

**To:** Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council  
**Date:** July 8, 2024

**From:** Blair Fryer, Acting Director Community Services  
**File:** 2515718

**Item #:** 2024-451

**Subject:** Mobile Food Vending Licence Bylaw Amendment - Temporary Locations

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council consider Mobile Food Vending Licence Bylaw Amendment (Temporary Locations) Bylaw No. 8471, 2024 for first, second, and third readings.

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### **PURPOSE**

To propose an amendment to the existing Mobile Food Vending Licensing Bylaw that would allow the addition of locations for a temporary time period.

### **SUMMARY**

Staff propose an amendment to the existing Mobile Food Vending Licensing Bylaw that would allow for testing of food truck pop up vending locations, while fulfilling requests for food services at facilities.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2016, after public and business community consultation, the City's Food Truck Guide and Mobile Food Vending Bylaw was approved by Council. The program was based on the following principles:

*Principle 1: Encourage a variety of street food businesses to facilitate a vibrant and lively street, provide more local food choices in the community and promote*

*social connectedness through the sharing of food.*

*Principle 2: Balance supporting street food businesses and brick and mortar businesses.*

During the Covid-19 pandemic, temporary policy adjustments were made to the food truck program in recognition of the impact that the pandemic was having on local bricks and mortar businesses. These time limited changes included:

- *No new annual business licenses approved for on-street food truck vending;*
- *Staff to work with existing annual food truck business license holders to locate food trucks in a manner that balances all local business concerns;*
- *No issuance of Street Occupancy Permits that enable non-special-event related food trucks to ‘reserve’ specific locations on the street; and prohibit new and renewal;*
- *Continued acceptance of annual food truck license applications for vending on private property, with discretion in approvals based on proximity to existing commercial food premises and other considerations aimed at balancing all local business concerns.*

After the pandemic, the food truck program reverted to its original policy framework. However, since then feedback from food truck operators has highlighted that several of the locations listed in the Mobile Food Vending Bylaw are no longer viable due to redevelopment and construction related activities (see Attachment 1). More recently, staff have heard anecdotal feedback from residents that having interim food service options available at tømøsewtxw Aquatic and Community Centre (TACC), until a permanent provider is determined, would be beneficial. In light of this and also wanting to bring activity to the plaza areas of TACC, staff are proposing a temporary policy adjustment to the food truck program.

**DISCUSSION**

*Food Truck Program*

There are currently 18 food trucks licensed under the annual business license category. Annual business licenses allow food trucks to roam on a first-come first-served basis within the following areas:

- Downtown - Columbia Street, Front Street, Carnarvon Street (currently unavailable due to construction)
- Queensborough - Ewen Avenue, between Jardine Street and Hampton Street
- Sapperton - East Columbia Street, between Sherbrooke Street and Braid Street  
- East Columbia Street, between Keary Street and Hospital Street (currently unavailable due to construction)
- West End & Moody Park - Twelfth Street between Sixth Avenue and Tenth Avenue

- Uptown - Sixth Street between Fourth Avenue and Eighth Avenue (currently unavailable due to construction)
  - Belmont Street
- Tipperary Park - Parking lot on Fourth Street
- 1319 Third Ave - One parking space outside of Steel & Oak Brewing Co

In addition to the designated on-street locations, the Mobile Food Vending Bylaw includes:

- Limitations to hours of operation – 6AM to 1AM daily, with the exception of food trucks parked outside of Royal Columbian Hospital, which can operate 24 hours a day. Food trucks at Tipperary Park must follow park hours.
- Prohibition on vending within 100-metres to restaurants selling similar cuisine
- Consideration for noise, waste generation and maintenance of surrounding area
- Licensing and insurance requirements
- The ability for licensees to obtain a Street Occupancy Permit which enables them to purchase a permit for a defined time period that allows them to ‘reserve’ a particular space on-street to locate the food truck.

#### *Proposed Bylaw Amendment*

Parks and Recreation and Economic Development staff have collaborated to determine how best to facilitate an amendment to the Food Truck Program that would allow food trucks to operate on an interim basis at TACC, and potentially a few other parks locations as part of a pilot project. The recommended bylaw amendment, see Attachment 2, would give the Chief (Business) Licence Inspector the discretion to identify other public locations not specified in the Mobile Food Vending Licensing Bylaw, on a temporary basis not exceeding six consecutive months.

This change is being proposed after staff received requests from local food truck operators to allow for more vending locations, as well as preliminary feedback from TACC users that having interim food services available prior to a permanent food operator would be beneficial. Food services is not anticipated to be available at TACC until late 2024. Parks and Recreation will be initiating a community engagement process to determine what type of food service the community is looking for at the facility. Additionally, staff see the addition of a food truck as helping to bringing activity to the plaza area at the north entrance of the building (by the grassy knoll). Including a food truck at TACC on a temporary basis could help to inform the engagement process of the permanent food service.

Currently, most parks or adjacent areas are not included in the permitted food truck locations identified in the mobile food truck bylaw. Staff have also heard from park users about the desire for additional options for food/beverage in parks (notably Hume and Moody), especially when the fields are rented by specific users (e.g. softball games or tournaments). Being mindful of the City’s existing park concession options, staff feel there are times/days when food trucks could augment the concessions, especially during days/times when they are not open.

In order to facilitate a fair and transparent process, staff would apply the following guidelines for the interim/temporary addition of food trucks at TACC, as well as any other park locations that may be considered:

- Daily time limits so there is a turnover of food truck vendors;
- Space allocation within the park/facility to be clearly defined and demarcated, in consultation with Parks and Recreation and Engineering staff;
- Additional parks may be considered as temporary vending locations, at the discretion of the Chief Business License Inspector in consultation with the Directors of Parks and Recreation and Engineering Services.

As with standard practice with respect to the food truck program, staff would continue to work with food truck business license-holders to locate food trucks in a manner that balances local business and City concession needs and concerns. Only food truck operators with an annual license are permitted to do pop-up vending.

**NEXT STEPS**

If the recommended bylaw amendment is supported, staff would work to determine specific locations with parks and engineering staff, as well as an appropriate scheduling scheme. After the interim trial period ended, the findings would inform future updating of the food truck policy/bylaw, as well as inform the process of selecting what type of food services are desired by the community at TACC.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications to the City.

**INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON**

The proposed adjustments to the food truck program has been determined in collaboration with staff in Economic Development and Parks and Recreation.

**OPTIONS**

The following options are presented for Council's consideration:

1. THAT Council consider Mobile Food Vending Licence Bylaw Amendment (Temporary Locations) Bylaw No. 8471, 2024 for first, second, and third readings.
2. THAT Council provide staff with alternate direction.

Staff recommend option 1.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Mobile Food Vending Licence Bylaw No. 7850, 2016

Attachment 2: Mobile Food Vending Licence Bylaw Amendment (Temporary Locations)  
Bylaw No. 8471, 2024

**APPROVALS**

This report was prepared by:  
Jen Arbo, Supervisor Community Partnerships  
Carolyn Armanini, A/Manager Economic Development

This report was reviewed by:  
Corrinne Garrett, Deputy Director – Recreation Services and Facilities

This report was approved by:  
Blair Fryer, A/Director, Community Services  
Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer