

REPORT

Community Services Department

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: February 10, 2025

From: Blair Fryer, Acting Director Community Services
File: #2606181

Item #: 2025-43

Subject: Mobile Food Vending Licence Bylaw Amendment

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Mobile Food Vending Licence Bylaw No. 7850, 2016, Amendment Bylaw No. 8498, 2025 be introduced and given first, second, and third readings.

PURPOSE

To propose an amendment to the existing Mobile Food Vending Licensing Bylaw No. 7850, 2016, that would remove the ability of the Chief Licence Inspector to identify temporary locations for food trucks and update the Bylaw's list of approved vending locations.

SUMMARY

Staff propose an amendment to the existing Mobile Food Vending Licensing Bylaw No. 7850, 2016 that would remove the ability of the Chief Licence Inspector to identify temporary locations for food trucks, as well as update the list of approved vending locations to include certain City park/facility locations. The bylaw amendment would also update and remove some existing locations due to infrastructure projects that have impacted the viability of the locations for mobile food vending.

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.

On July 15, 2024, Council approved Mobile Food Vending Licence Bylaw Amendment (Temporary Locations) Bylaw No. 8471, 2024 and approved that the (amendment) bylaw be repealed after January 1, 2025. The amendment permitted the Chief Licence Inspector to approve temporary locations for food trucks for a 6 month time period. The temporary locations have included təməsewtx^w Aquatic and Community Centre (TACC), Upper Hume Park, Moody Park, and Ryall Park. The intent of the changes were to allow food trucks to operate on an interim basis at TACC, as well as a few other parks locations as part of a pilot project.

DISCUSSION

Food Truck Program

There are currently 23 food trucks licensed under the annual business licence category. Annual business licenses allow food trucks to roam on a first-come first-served basis within the following areas:

Permanent Locations

Area:	Location Details
Downtown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Columbia Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Between Elliot Street and the junction at Stewardson Way. - Front Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Between Begbie Street and Fourth Street. - Carnarvon Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Between Sixth Street and Tenth Street.
Queensborough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ewen Avenue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Between Jardine Street and Hampton Street
Sapperton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - East Columbia Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Between Sherbrooke Street and Braid Street - East Columbia Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Between Keary Street and Hospital Street
Upper Twelfth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Twelfth Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Between Sixth Avenue and Tenth Avenue
Uptown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sixth Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Between Fourth Avenue and Eighth Avenue - Belmont Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Between Sixth Street and Seventh Street
Tipperary Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parking lot on Fourth Street
1319 Third Ave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One parking space outside of Steel & Oak Brewing Co.

Temporary Locations (2024)

Area	Location Details
Təmasewtxw Aquatic and Community Centre (TACC)	- One parking spot in the loading zone at the front of the building.
Upper Hume Park	- One parking sport at the corner of Kelly Street and Hume Lane, in front of the washrooms.
Moody Park	- Tenth Street - One parking space between Hamilton Street and Kingston Street.
Ryall Park	- Salter Street - One parking space by the picnic shelter between Carter Street and Viscount Place.

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

- Limitations to hours of operation – 6AM to 1AM the following day, 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.

Trial of Temporary Locations 2024

Starting in September 2024, food truck vendors had the opportunity to operate at four temporary locations; TACC, Hume Park, Moody Park and Ryall Park, for a period of up to six months.

As the three park locations were pop-up, meaning they do not require pre-booking, staff are uncertain how many vendors tried the locations over the course of the trial. No feedback, positive or negative, was received by staff.

The TACC vending location required operators to pre-book and staff report that the location was regularly booked. Overall, the TACC location was well-received by both facility users and vendors, with positive anecdotal feedback. It provided insight into the potential for making the location permanent and offered an opportunity to provide food services to facility users during this interim period when other on-site services are unavailable.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment 2025

New Park/Facility Locations

The proposed bylaw amendment removes section 17A of the bylaw which gives the Chief Licence Inspector the authority to temporarily approve other public locations, and adds TACC, Upper Hume Park, Moody Park and Ryall Park as permitted locations listed within the bylaw.

The intent of the proposed bylaw changes are to enhance park users' experience by providing food service options, supporting small business opportunities, and addressing demand for food service in high-traffic areas or during events, tournaments, and peak usage times that complement existing park concessions when they are closed or unavailable.

If the amendment is approved, the three park locations would follow a 'pop-up' or first-come, first-served model, which is how the current food truck program operates. For the TACC location, food trucks would be required to reserve time slots in advance, which would be managed by Parks and Recreation. Continuing with a food truck location at TACC will serve as an effective interim solution while a permanent food service option is established, with completion expected end of 2025. Once a permanent food service is open within the facility, the vending location would only be available during special events or other programming situations, at the discretion of the Director of Parks and Recreation.

Other requirements for food truck vendors at TACC would include:

- No generators permitted; electrical outlet is available
- Reservations required, can be made up to 14 days in advance
- Electrical Supply fee of \$31 per day of use (2025 rate)

Removal/Revision of Existing Commercial Area Locations

The following changes are proposed to the list of permitted public locations as a result of recent infrastructure/road work projects.

- **Sapperton - East Columbia Street (between Keary Street and Hospital Street)**
 - This location would be deleted due to the removal of on-street parking on East Columbia Street as part of the Sapperton Great Street project.
 - The bylaw amendment would also remove the location in the section pertaining to permitted hours of operation (Section 20 (I)(ii)).
- **Uptown - Sixth Street (Sixth Street between Eighth Avenue and Fourth Avenue)**
 - This location is proposed to be revised to:
 - Sixth Street, between Seventh Avenue and Princess Street, and between Belmont Street and Fourth Avenue

- This change is proposed due to the addition of the Uptown bike lane which has reduced the availability of on-street parking in the block between Seventh Avenue and Eighth Avenue.

NEXT STEPS

If the amendment is approved, the next steps would include updating the City webpage to reflect the revised food truck locations, notifying existing licence holders of the changes, and informing interdepartmental staff of the changes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications to the City.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

Staff from the Economic Development division and Parks and Recreation department have collaborated on the proposed adjustments to the Mobile Food Vending Licence Bylaw.

OPTIONS

The following options are presented for Council's consideration:

1. THAT Mobile Food Vending Licence Bylaw No. 7850, 2016, Amendment Bylaw No. 8498, 2025 be introduced and given 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 No. 7850, 2016, Amendment Bylaw No. 8498, 2025.

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

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