

Planning & Development Services Report to
Executive Committee
2025 April 15

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
EC2025-0382

Enabling Cannabis Sales At Minors-Prohibited Events

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to align the City of Calgary's Business Licence Bylaw with the provincial Retail Cannabis Store Handbook, to enable temporary cannabis sales at events that are minors-prohibited.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

On 2025 February 25, Council directed Administration to amend all relevant legislation to allow for the sales of cannabis at minors-prohibited events to align with Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis regulations and compliance, and to bring any such changes to the 2025 April 15 Executive Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Executive Committee:

1. Forward this Report to the 2025 April 29 Regular Meeting of Council; and

That Executive Committee recommend that Council:

2. Give three readings to the Business Licence Bylaw 32M98 amendment as proposed in Attachment 2.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

General Manager Deb Hamilton concurs with the recommendations of this Report. The proposed amendments brings the Business Licence Bylaw into alignment with provincial policy and provides more flexibility for cannabis store operators in Calgary.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis amended their Retail Cannabis Store Handbook in 2024 January to allow the sales of cannabis at minors-prohibited events.
- To enable this in Calgary, Administration is recommending a housekeeping amendment to the Business Licence Bylaw to align with the provincial Retail Cannabis Store Handbook.
- There is no anticipated impact on The City of Calgary as Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis continues to be responsible for enforcing all policies detailed in the Retail Cannabis Store Handbook.
- The Business Licence Bylaw amendment supports business-friendly initiatives, supports business growth, and encourages vibrant events and festivals in Calgary.

DISCUSSION

Once a cannabis store operator has obtained their City of Calgary and Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC) licences, they may only sell their products out of their approved retail location. As of 2024 January, AGLC has allowed for sales of cannabis products at events where minors are prohibited; for a cannabis retailer to do this, they must apply to AGLC for a licence

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extension of their retail store. The current City of Calgary Business Licence Bylaw does not allow for sales of cannabis products outside of a retailer's location. The proposed bylaw amendment (Attachment 2) will allow existing cannabis retailers in Calgary to extend their licence to operate a mobile business unit at minors-prohibited events that AGLC has already approved. Please see Attachment 3 for a red line version of the bylaw amendment.

AGLC will inspect and enforce the temporary retail cannabis store at minors-prohibited events. Enabling the extended cannabis store licence gives AGLC more oversight and ability to regulate this business activity. City of Calgary event approvals and inspection processes will remain unchanged and coordinated across business units and partner agencies, such as inspection of the cannabis consumption area and issuance of the temporary occupancy load card. The licence extension does not change the current provisions for the cannabis consumption area – cannabis purchased from a licensed mobile retailer at the event may only be consumed in the approved cannabis consumption area.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

Administration engaged with internal and external partner agencies as listed:

Internal agencies

- Arts & Culture – Interdepartmental Events Team
- Community Standards – Community Safety
- Community Standards – Business Safety
- Calgary Fire – Inspections
- Calgary Police Service – Operational Planning Team
- Law
- Customer Service & Communications

External agencies

- Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC)
- Alberta Health Services

Administration heard that internal agencies support the Business Licence Bylaw amendment to align with the provincial regulation for existing cannabis retailers in Calgary which will further streamline and clarify the roles and responsibilities of each partner agency at events.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) discussed health concerns and potential strategies to mitigate the risks related to cannabis sales at events. Administration recommended AHS engage with AGLC on health concerns and harm reduction. Please see Attachment 5 for the letter from AHS. AHS' proposed mitigations strategies are mostly within the purview of the Federal or Provincial government. Cannabis retailers at minors-prohibited must adhere to the same municipal bylaw rules and regulations for their cannabis store locations.

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IMPLICATIONS

Social

The Business Licence Bylaw amendment supports a safer and more secure practice of cannabis sales for event patrons and the community at minors-prohibited events.

Environmental

Not applicable.

Economic

Events and festivals make Calgary a vibrant place to live and an attractive city to visit, contributing to Calgary's economy. The bylaw amendment supports the Eventful City Strategy, business-friendly initiatives, and provides business growth opportunities for existing cannabis retailers located in Calgary.

Service and Financial Implications

No anticipated financial impact

There is no anticipated impact on The City from a financial standpoint. Existing administrative processes will not be impacted, and the volume of minors-prohibited events is not anticipated to impact City resources.

RISK

Without the bylaw amendment, cannabis sales at minors-prohibited events are not allowed. Event patrons may then use alternative, unregulated methods to purchase cannabis products at the event.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. Proposed Business Licence Bylaw 32M98 Amendment
3. Red Line of Bylaw 32M98 Amendment
4. Presentation
5. AHS Letter

Department Circulation

General Manager	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Debra Hamilton	Planning and Development Services	Approve
Katie Black	Community Services	Inform

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