
Motion - Support for the adaptation of small businesses to physical distancing requirements

ACS2020-OCC-TRC-0006

City Wide

Motion

Moved by Councillor J. Leiper

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to Subsections 89(3) and 83(4)(a) of the Procedure By-law, the Transportation Committee waive the Rules of Procedure to receive the verbal update from staff of the Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development (PIED) Department regarding opportunities for retail operations to operate at today's meeting, and dispense with the requirement for staff to provide a separate written report on this verbal update and presentation; and

That Transportation Committee suspend the Rules of Procedure to permit the introduction of the following motion, in order to respond in a timely manner to support the local economy as a result of restrictions imposed to address the COVID-19 pandemic:

CARRIED

The committee received a PowerPoint presentation from Court Curry, Manager, ROW, Heritage & Urban Design Services, Planning, Infrastructure and Economic Development (PIED) and Laila Gibbons, Director, Roads & Parking Services, Public Works and Environmental Services. A copy of the presentation is held on file with the City Clerk.

Following discussion and questions of staff, the committee CARRIED the following motion:

Motion

Moved by Councillor E. El-Chantiry

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve and is causing significant economic effects across the world and locally in Ottawa; and

WHEREAS on March 17, 2020, an emergency related to the COVID-19 outbreak was declared in the whole of the Province of Ontario, pursuant to Section 7.0.1 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, as set out in Order in Council 518/2020; and

WHEREAS as part of the emergency declaration, retail stores have been significantly limited in their operations, which has resulted in substantial local economic impacts; and

WHEREAS due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation and the anticipated capacity restrictions from the Province of Ontario and associated recommendations from Ottawa Public Health that physical distancing be practiced in order to decrease transmission, which will limit the number of customers into store fronts compared to previous years; and

WHEREAS the Use and Care of Roads By-law 2003-498, limits merchandising on the right of way; and

WHEREAS local businesses and the Economic Partners Task Force have advocated for less regulation to help small businesses as part of the recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa can support the local economy by permitting merchandising on the right of way with retail pop-up spaces and retail patios,

BE IT RESOLVED that Transportation Committee recommend that Council approve the following:

- i. Waive the provisions of the Use and Care of Roads By-law, for 2020 only, such that a business owner may establish along the frontage of their business a retail pop up, with an application fee of \$62 similar to the Café Seating provisions of the ROW Patio By-law 2017-92 or retail patio, with an application fee of \$340, while maintaining a minimum two-metre pedestrian clearway and in compliance with the requirements of the Accessibility Design Standards and any other considerations to minimize the impacts on abutting properties or City operations at the discretion of the General Manager, PIED; and
- ii. Direct staff to establish a 10-day permit process; and the delegation of authority of this business process to be given to the General Manager, PIED.

CARRIED