

July 7, 2020

Mayor and Council
City of Vancouver

Re: Alignment of Occupancy Limits between Building and Fire By-Laws

We are supportive of the motion to realign occupancy limits with the building code. This is something licenced establishments in Vancouver have been advocating for since the early 1990's.

We urge that this motion include businesses in moratorium areas, such as the Granville Entertainment District. Businesses in moratorium areas need this lifeblood policy change as much as any other as they try to recover from the economic impacts of the covid-19 pandemic.

The City has evolved since the moratorium areas and establishment classifications distancing policies were imposed in the early 1990's. The moratorium areas and class of establishment policies need a full review. Businesses should be judged based on quality not geographic location.

The night economy is changing. There is increasing demand for alternative formats for nightclubs. Concepts such as the Colony Bar and Cineplex's the Rec Room are quickly rising in popularity. These multi-functional venues operate at the intersection of pub, arcade, sports bar, music venue, restaurant, and nightclub. They are open earlier than nightclubs, which brings much needed daytime and weekday vibrancy and economic activity to the street. The Granville Entertainment District can continue to be an employment and revenue generator, but it needs support at this crucial time.

Regards,



Charles Gauthier, MCP
President and CEO

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