

March 26, 2021

Vancouver City Council  
453 West 12th Ave  
Vancouver, BC  
V5Y 1V4



**Support for Council Members' Motion: Calling for a Plan to Clear Vancouver's Permit and License Backlog and Revamp this Critical City Service**

Mayor and Council,

The Downtown Vancouver BIA is supportive of motion put forth by Councillors Dominato and Kirby-Yung to create a plan to clear Vancouver's permit and licence backlog.

Our members have expressed the need for a more streamlined permitting process. Permit delays add significant costs to opening or renovating a business. As noted in the motion, "the average corresponding economic loss per business permit or licence is estimated to be in excess of \$720,000 (*LOCO BC report, 2020*). Delayed permits have contributed to an environment of instability and uncertainty for businesses in addition to escalating cost."

We have suggested several solutions in previous letters and consultations that we are pleased to see included in the motion. These solutions include adopting new technologies, allocating more staff and resources to permit processing, and creating an accountability and monitoring framework.

Eliminating the permit backlog will help ensure economic stability and support the post-pandemic economic recovery.

Thank you for making this critical city service a priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Gauthier".

Charles Gauthier, MCP  
President & CEO

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