



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** General Purposes Committee

**Date:** April 25, 2014

**From:** Cecilia Achiam  
Director, Administration and Compliance

**File:** 10-6360-03-04/2014-  
Vol 01

**Re:** Review of Sidewalk Vending Services Pilot Project

### Staff Recommendation

That a Mobile Vending Program on City-owned or City-controlled property be endorsed as an ongoing City initiative.

Cecilia Achiam  
Director, Administration and Compliance  
(604-276-4122)

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Business Licences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Real Estate Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Economic Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO Deputy 

**Staff Report**

**Origin**

At the March 25th, 2013 Council meeting, Council adopted the following resolution:

*That:*

1. *Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7538, Amendment Bylaw No. 8800, be introduced and given first, second, and third readings;*
2. *A pilot project to allow sidewalk vending services at the intersection of No. 3 Road and Westminster Highway be endorsed; and,*
3. *A report be brought back to Council following a one year review of the sidewalk vending services pilot project.*

The Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7538, Amendment Bylaw No. 8800, which permits a mobile vendor to conduct business on City-owned or controlled property, was subsequently adopted by Council on April 22, 2013.

The purpose of this Report is to report back to Council on the pilot project at the intersection of No. 3 Road and Westminster Highway, following the one year implementation period, and to seek Council’s endorsement of a Mobile Vending Program on City-owned or City-controlled property as an ongoing City initiative.

**Background**

The City published its first Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) in late 2012, which outlines the project requirements and general criteria for sidewalk vending services. There were three respondents to the first EOI. To generate further interest in the pilot project, a second EOI was posted in July 2013 and the City received proposals from two respondents.

The following three vendors met City requirements and are currently operating on the pilot site:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Commencement Date</b>
Japadog	specialty hotdog	south/west corner of No. 3 Road and Westminster Highway	June 13, 2013
Richmond Hospice Association (RHA)	fresh flowers	south/west corner of No. 3 Road and Westminster Highway	September 6, 2013
Fooda International	roasted chestnuts	north/east corner of No. 3 Road and Westminster Highway	January 15, 2014

## **Analysis**

### Key Findings/Learning:

1. There was a modest response to the City's call out for sidewalk vending services at the pilot site.
2. The sidewalks in the pilot site are not wide enough to accommodate large-size vending trucks. Moreover, there were challenges with regards to the ability of these trucks to manoeuvre in and out of the sidewalks. It is for these reasons that the City had to decline the proposal of one of the three respondents to the first EOI.
3. The food vendors provided positive feedback on their sidewalk vending experience. They have indicated that business is good and expressed general satisfaction with the pedestrian traffic in the pilot site. It was observed that foot traffic did drop during the winter months. Both vendors wish to continue to operate at the pilot site.
4. With respect to the non-food vendor, it is their observation that foot traffic in the pilot site is not enough to sustain their flower vending operation, and for this reason, they do not wish to continue their operation this coming Fall. They would be open to other opportunities should they arise (e.g. setting up a flower booth at an event).
5. The City did not receive any unsolicited feedback from the public nor neighbouring businesses with respect to the sidewalk vending carts at the pilot site.

### Moving Forward:

During the pilot phase of the sidewalk vending services initiative, the City received inquiries from interested parties to establish vending trucks in other parts of the City outside the pilot areas. In response to such inquiries, the City, through the Economic Development Office and other channels, intends to promote mobile vending in other areas of Richmond.

With the adoption of Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7538, Amendment Bylaw No. 8800, authorization is in place to allow mobile vendors to conduct business on City-owned or City-controlled property. An approval process, which was established for handling sidewalk vending operations in the pilot site, will be used to facilitate future requests to set up vending carts and trucks elsewhere in the City. As in the pilot project, potential vendors will need to follow a set of general criteria to operate a mobile vending unit (e.g. must be permitted under any applicable bylaws; must comply with applicable Richmond Fire-Rescue and National Fire Protection Association regulations; must comply with public health requirements with respect to health and safety issues, etc.). Staff will monitor the Mobile Vending Program to ensure that the City is implementing the Program in the most effective and efficient manner.

It will take some time to generate interest in and build up a substantial mobile vending program in Richmond. Currently though, a robust food vending program exists in Richmond through the two night markets, which operate approximately six months/year. In 2013, the Summer Night

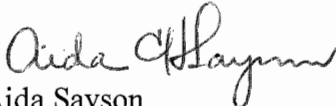
Market (Vulcan Way) had 62 food booths plus two to three food trucks, while the Richmond Night Market (Duck Island) had 84 food booths plus two to three food trucks.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

The City has gained modest success with sidewalk vending in the pilot site and valuable experience through the pilot project. Both food vendors are allowed to continue their sidewalk vending operation under authority from the existing Business Regulation Bylaw. The opportunity for mobile vendors to operate in other City-owned or controlled property will be explored as part of continuing efforts to attract a diversity of businesses to Richmond.

  
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