

DATE OF MEETING August 30, 2021

AUTHORED BY LAINY STEVENSON, PLANNER, CURRENT PLANNING

SUBJECT LIQUOR LICENCE APPLICATION NO. LA144 – UNIT 2, 75 FRONT STREET

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To provide Council with information regarding an application received to amend the existing liquor licence for a business at 75 Front Street, Unit 2 (the Nanaimo Bar) to extend the hours of service.

## **BACKGROUND**

A notice of application was received from Sonia Komen, owner of the Nanaimo Bar at 75 Front Street, Unit 2, requesting a local government resolution in support of their licence amendment application to the Provincial Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB) to extend their hours of service. Council supported a lounge endorsement liquor licence for the Nanaimo Bar in August 2015.

## **DISCUSSION**

The subject property is located within Nanaimo’s downtown core and is included within the Chapel Front (DT5) zone. The DT5 zone permits a nightclub and lounge use. The applicant is proposing to extend the hours of service such that the business has the potential to be open from 10 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. seven days a week. The existing and proposed hours of service are as follows:

	<b>Monday to Sunday</b>
<b>Existing Hours</b>	5 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
<b>Proposed Hours</b>	10 a.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Changes in hours of service are subject to local government consideration and comment. A municipal resolution will be required before the Province will consider the application further. As part of the liquor licence amendment review process, the LCRB asks the local government to comment on potential for noise and impact on the community, and requests the local government gather the views of nearby residents and business owners. A Public Notice and Comment Sheet will be sent and delivered to all property owners and occupants within 100m of the business at 75 Front Street. The Public Notice will advise residents of the proposed changes to the liquor licence and give an opportunity for them to provide comments. Once the

responses have been received, they will be summarized and attached to a future report to Council.

The LCRB has requested liquor licence amendment applications be reviewed in terms of the following criteria:

- The location of the establishment;
- The proximity of the establishment to other social or recreational facilities;
- The person capacity and hours of service of the establishment;
- The impact of noise on the community in the immediate vicinity; and
- The impact on the community if the application is approved.

Staff will comment on each of these factors in a future report after public comments have been received.

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- An application has been received to amend the existing liquor licence at 75 Front Street (the Nanaimo Bar) to extend the hours of service.
- Staff will proceed with the public notification to gather the views of nearby residents and business owners.
- A summary of public comments and an evaluation of community impacts will be brought to Council for consideration in a future report.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

ATTACHMENT A: Context Map  
ATTACHMENT B: Location Plan  
ATTACHMENT C: Letter of Rationale  
ATTACHMENT D: Aerial Photo

#### **Submitted by:**

Lainya Rowett  
Manager, Current Planning

#### **Concurrence by:**

Jeremy Holm  
Director, Development Approvals

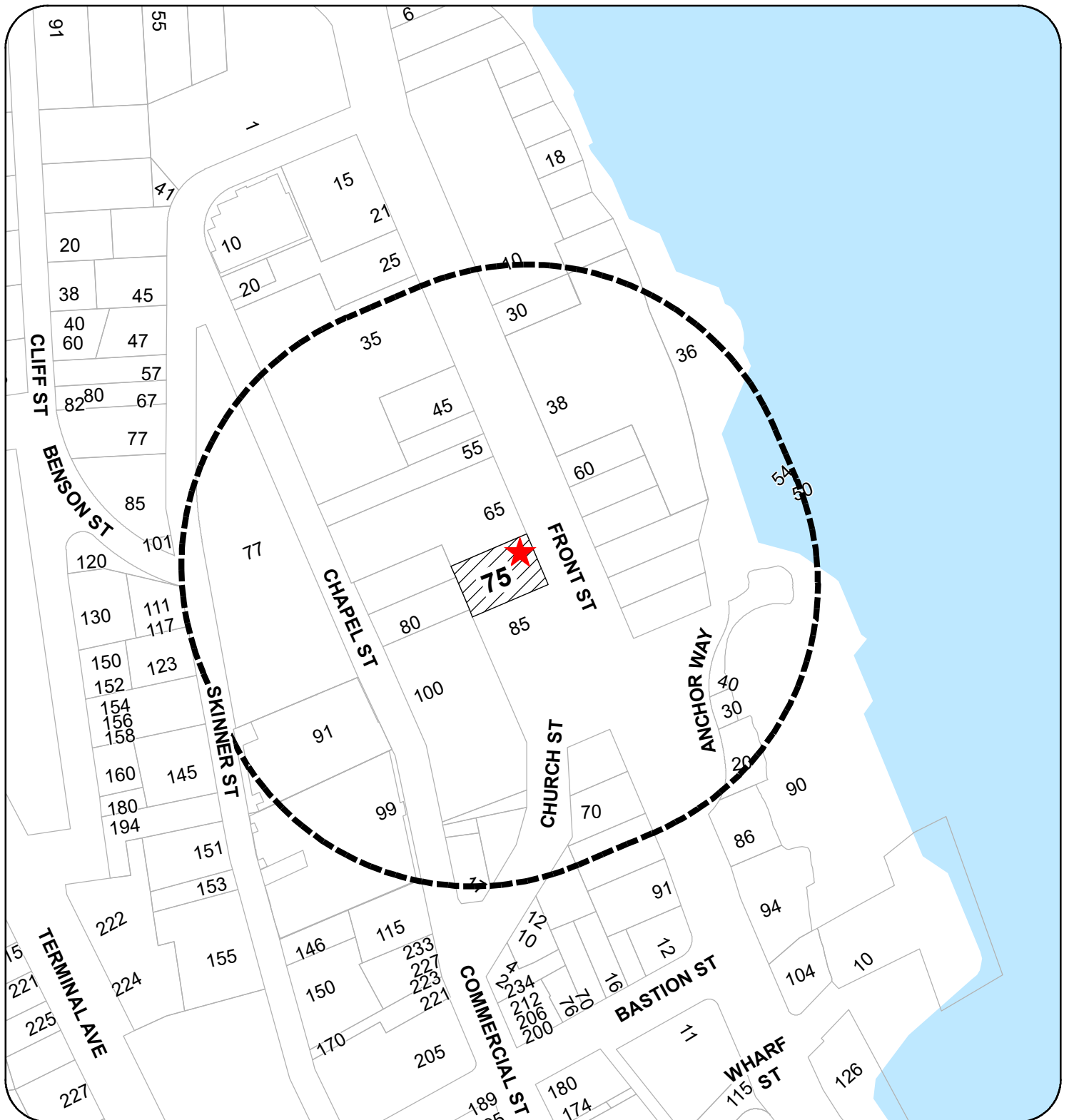
Dale Lindsay  
General Manager, Development Services

# ATTACHMENT A CONTEXT MAP



75 FRONT STREET

# ATTACHMENT B LOCATION PLAN






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## LIQUOR LICENCE APPLICATION NO. LA000144

### LOCATION PLAN

Civic: 75 FRONT STREET  
Legal: LT AM 3&4& PT OF 19, BLK 55, SEC 1, PLN 584&633R, LD 32

- Legend**
-  Subject Property
  -  Buffer (100m)
  -  Unit 2

## **ATTACHMENT C LETTER OF RATIONALE**

Community impact statement.

I am writing in regards to my application for an extension of hours to my liquor license. Currently our hours are 5:00pm-1:30am, 7 days a week. I am seeking permission to expand those hours to 10:00am to 1:30am, 7 days a week.

The net impact this will have on our downtown core can only be positive.

There will be more businesses open during the day and make downtown thrive and look alive, especially during tourist season. It will bring locals to the downtown core that might not normally venture this way.

I can provide services, such as private functions or meetings in a smaller venue.

Many people have said that they can not stay for the live music because it is too late for them. Being open earlier, I will be able to provide earlier shows. This will also give local musicians more opportunities to play for their community. Bringing people together. Bringing back the much needed culture we seem to be missing (especially after Covid).

Not only tourists but locals as well have often enquired about being able to have a “Nanaimo Bar” in a “NANAIMO BAR”. Being a licensed establishment, I offer Nanaimo Bar Cocktails or Martinis. All part of the Nanaimo Bar Trail.

One possible negative impact I foresee, is that some residents who live downtown in the Arts district, might not enjoy the music. May be too loud for them? I can and will make sure to keep the noise level low by taking decibel readings and keeping the volume at a reasonable level for listening as I currently do.

Another impact is perhaps people may be drinking a little earlier. As per liquor regulations, I will be sure to NOT over serve them and to limit their alcohol intake as per usual.

Thank you for your time and consideration. CHEERS!

Sonia Komen  
Owner/Operator  
The Nanaimo Bar

**ATTACHMENT D  
AERIAL PHOTO**



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**LIQUOR LICENCE APPLICATION NO. LA000144**

**Legend**

 Subject Property

 Unit 2