



**Subject: Patio Stall Season Extension Request**

**To: Council**

**From: Chief Administrative Office**

Report Number: 2021-292

Meeting Date: November 8, 2021

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### **Recommendation:**

That Chief Administrative Office Report 2021-292 be received; and

That a Patio Stall extension through to December 31, 2021 be approved, pending the comprehensive review and consultation of the City's Encroachment Policy.

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### **Purpose:**

The Pie Guys Bakery & Cafe Inc has requested an extension of the patio by-law until December 31, 2021 to facilitate a Holiday Winter Wonderland full of Christmas trees, lights, and full-size gingerbread men as an attraction to West Street. However, any businesses that currently have a patio on a parking stall would be eligible to apply for an extension should they so choose. This report is seeking approval for an extension to December 31, 2021.

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### **Background:**

Throughout the pandemic the City of Port Colborne has been actively working with the Chamber of Commerce and Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) to support local businesses and provide flexibility and solutions to allow for business continuation.

In the restaurant and retail sectors, this included 15-minute parking to facilitate pick-up orders and delivery vehicles. Flexibility was given around pop-up patios on City streets in parking stalls.

An extension as a trial basis pilot program has been granted to other downtown businesses for sidewalk patios and this request can also be used as a pilot program for late fall and winter business development.

**Discussion:**

The purpose of the extension request is to support local business recovery by creating a seasonal attraction to West Street for the November and December timeframe. The rationale is to increase visitation to the West Street and downtown area and act as a pilot program for future late fall and winter use of this area.

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**Internal Consultations:**

Public Works has identified some timeframes and concerns based on the fact that winter operations commence as soon as cold temperatures and snow arrive in Port Colborne – which could be prior to December 31. Patios in parking stalls in the downtown area could impact plowing and sanding the streets.

The Director of Public Works is of the opinion that a November 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for removal of patios is more suitable than December 31<sup>st</sup> for the following reasons:

- 1) Through November 30<sup>th</sup> is generally sanding only and doesn't present a problem for Public Works
  - 2) December typically has heavier snow falls and the use of the plows for plowing, the throwing and plowing of snow could damage both equipment and the patio.
  - 3) Creates safety and liability concerns for the City.
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**Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications.

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**Strategic Plan Alignment:**

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar of the strategic plan:

- Service and Simplicity - Quality and Innovative Delivery of Customer Services
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**Conclusion:**

The COVID-19 Emergency has been devastating for restaurant and retail businesses and this has necessitated creativity and flexibility to support these businesses to allow them to survive and successfully recover in the future.

An extension for patio use until December 31<sup>st</sup>, in the Downtown BIA will support local businesses and allow staff to assess the outcome as the City looks to craft a comprehensive policy for the business community.

There is a concern for the Public Works Department as snow removal and safety are a priority.

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Respectfully submitted,

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**Report Approval:**

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.