

Urban Planning and Economy

Edmonton

## Options to Address the Retail Sale of Knives

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# Background

## **April 9, 2024 - Urban Planning Committee Meeting**

- Public speakers and the Edmonton Police Service presented concerns regarding knives being sold in corner stores, often purchased by youth and others for self-defence or use in criminal activity
- A motion was made for Administration to provide options to address the retail sale of knives with potential amendments to the Business Licence Bylaw

## Option 1: Create a Convenience Store Category

- Creating and defining a new category that could
  - Prohibit the sale of knives in Convenience Stores
  - Impose operating requirements on the sale of knives at Convenience Stores
- 'Convenience Store' Category would be added to existing retailers over the course of 2 years
- This option is closely aligned with public engagement results and most directly addresses what community stakeholders and EPS have requested

## Option 2: Amend the Existing Retail Sales Business Licence Categories

- Amends the existing Retail Sales categories to impose operating requirements that ALL retailers must follow when selling knives of any kind, with a potential exception for cutlery
- There will be less barriers to implementation as businesses will already have licences with these categories
- Engagement results suggest that the public and businesses do not think broad restrictions will solve the problem

## Option 3: Leverage Existing Business Licence Review Provisions

- Bylaw 20002 includes provisions for a business licence review, a formal process through which a licence may be refused, suspended, cancelled, or issued with operating requirements under specific grounds
- This option provides a pathway for enforcement agencies to address specific retailers without impacting those retailers that sell knives responsibly
- Aligns with public engagement results as many Edmontonians do not feel that broad regulations on all retailers selling knives will be effective

# Operating Requirements

## Potential Operating Requirements

- Applicable to Options 1, 2 and 3
- Prohibiting retailers from selling knives to a person who is under 18 years of age
- Requiring retailers to obtain photo identification to verify the age of a purchaser who appears to be under 25 years of age
- Requiring retailers to keep knives locked in a display case or secure room
- Requiring retailers to post signage with City-approved messaging to communicate any applicable restrictions

## Option 4: Advocacy to Other Levels of Government

- Advocacy could be undertaken to the federal government for stronger regulations on the sale and possession of knives
- Advocacy could be undertaken to the provincial government to fund support programs and help address the root causes of knife violence

# Questions and Thank You