

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

Options

- **Option 1:** Create a Convenience Store Category
- **Option 2:** Amend the Existing Retail Sales Business Licence Categories
- **Option 3:** Leverage Existing Business Licence Review Provisions
- **Option 4:** Advocate to the Federal and Provincial Governments

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

Motion from Committee

Motion at Community & Public Services Committee (*not put to vote*)

- That Administration prepare amendments to Bylaw 20002 - Business Licence Bylaw to prohibit the sale of knives at businesses with the convenience store category, as set out in Option 1.
- That Administration advance Option 4 - advocating to the Government of Canada for stronger regulations on the sale and possession of knives and to the Government of Alberta to fund support programs and help address the root causes of knife violence.

Option 1- Details

No funding

- Utilize existing resources and licensing administration tools - anticipate timeline impacts
- Anticipate lower level of category application
- Reactive enforcement with more enforcement steps anticipated to reach compliance

Full funding - *\$940,000*

- Automated tools to support renewal process
- Proactive site visits by MEOs in advance of renewal dates to validate renewal process
- Dedicated enforcement team supporting escalated enforcement where licensees do not voluntarily comply or respond to tickets/warnings

Clarification points

- Enforcement efforts must follow due processes
- Escalated enforcement requiring resources includes the ability to:
 - Gather evidence and compile business licence review proposals
 - Proceed with court injunctions and/or remediation activities to prevent a non-compliant business from operating
- City of Edmonton Enforcement Officers do not have seizure powers

Questions and Thank You