

Image source: <https://www.nurturedevelopment.org/blog/abcd-approach/off-the-roundabout/>

AABA staff engaged with convenience store owners/operators to share the concerns of our collective and community. There are 32 convenience stores on the avenue; we engaged with 22, of which 11 stores immediately removed all the knives from their shelves at their own cost. Our engagement resulted in an estimated 431 knives being immediately removed by caring business owners who were just too busy working and not paying attention to what was happening outside their stores.

OPTIONS TO ADDRESS THE RETAIL SALE OF KNIVES

Community Insight

Engagement with Purchasers and Community Members

A survey was distributed to members of the public via the Edmonton Insight Community and through the City's website. The survey asked those who have, or may purchase knives in the future to provide feedback on how they might be impacted by, and how they perceive potential regulations. In total, 4,494 people responded to the survey. The feedback on potential regulations was generally mixed. Highlights from respondents include:

- 51 per cent of respondents agree that minors should not be allowed to purchase a knife without an adult present; however, 53 per cent disagree that age restrictions on the purchase of knives would prevent youths from acquiring knives elsewhere for committing crimes.
- 36 per cent of respondents would not be willing to provide identification when purchasing a knife.
- 61 per cent of respondents disagree that having knives locked up would prevent people from buying them to commit a crime.
- 21 per cent of responses were positive comments about regulation, including that knives should not be sold in convenience or corner stores, and that having immediate access to knives causes significant harm to vulnerable communities.

Additional information, including open ended sentiments gathered from respondents, can be found in Attachment 4.

On June 7, 2024, Administration met with representatives from Arts on the Ave and the Alberta Avenue Community League, both of whom were public speakers at the April 9, 2024 Urban Planning Committee. Representatives reiterated key concerns, further clarified that Administration should not focus potential regulations exclusively on minors, and expressed a strong desire for Administration to continue exploring regulatory options to address knife violence under other municipal bylaws, including the Zoning Bylaw and Public Places Bylaw.

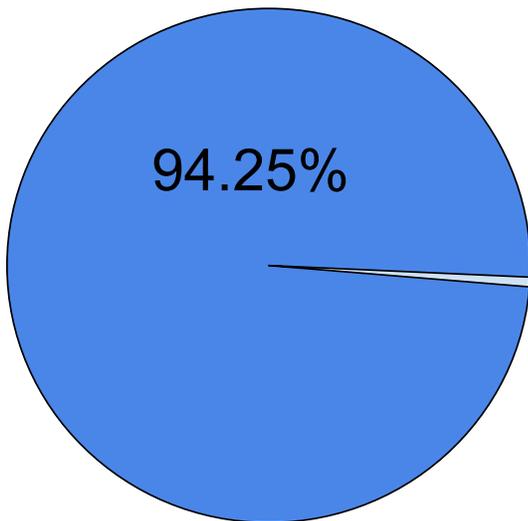


Engagement with Businesses

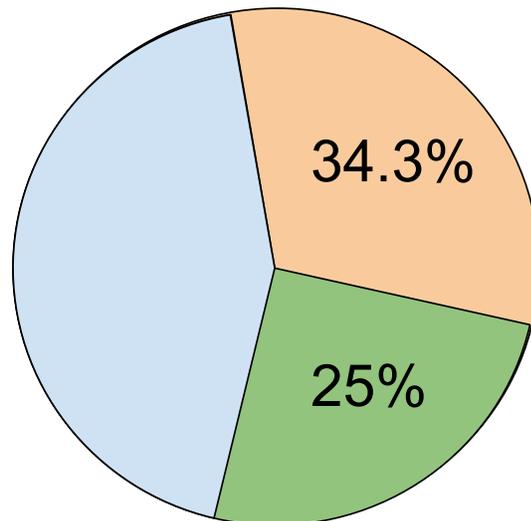
A survey was distributed directly to licensed retailers. Retailers that sell knives were asked about their current business practices with respect to the sale of knives, how they might be impacted by regulations, and general thoughts on the regulation of knife sales.

Among the retailers that sell knives (26 respondents), 14 respondents had concerns about requiring identification from buyers and keeping knives in a secure enclosure. Seven respondents had concerns about a requirement to post signage. When asked questions about potential restrictions on selling knives in combination with other items, 12 respondents had concerns about not being able to sell grocery items in combination with all types of knives. Five respondents had concerns about not being able to sell tobacco / vaping products and pharmaceuticals in combination with knives, four respondents had concerns about not being able to sell alcohol with knives, and three respondents had concerns about not being able to sell cannabis products with knives.

Further details of engagement are discussed in Attachment 4.



Visible Minority Owned/operated convenience stores at AABA



Didn't sale knives
Removed knives after the engagement

Option 3: Leverage Existing Business Licence Review Provisions

Bylaw 20002 currently includes provisions for a business licence review, which is a formal process through which a licence may be refused, suspended, cancelled, or issued with operating requirements under specific grounds - including public interest. EPS and other enforcement agencies can and do currently request licence reviews by submitting proposals to Administration, which include relevant information and evidence to demonstrate that public interest grounds

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have been met. The business licence review mechanism is typically leveraged by enforcement agencies to address challenges with minors-prohibited drinking establishments, and other businesses that enforcement agencies may encounter problems with during beat patrols and routine inspections.

To date, Administration has not received requests from any enforcement agency to prohibit specific products from being sold by a retail business of concern, and as such Administration has identified an opportunity for further education to enforcement agencies regarding the capabilities of the existing business licence review tool to address the knives and retailers of concern communicated at the April 9, 2024 Urban Planning Committee meeting.

Given meaningful actions and statistically significant data about the demographics and participation of convenience store owners, **I would urge City Consul to modify option 3 of the report to allocate those funds to further the engagement and community development efforts of business groups to support visible minority convenience store owners/operators during the “Create a Convenience Store Category”**