

Urban Planning and Economy

Edmonton

Bylaw Amendments to Address the Retail Sale of Knives

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edmonton.ca/businesslicences

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 passed for Administration to provide options to address the retail sale of knives with potential amendments to the Business Licence Bylaw

October 2, 2024 - City Council

- A motion was passed directing Administration to proceed with implementing Option 1 (No Funding) - Create a Convenience Store Category, and to subsequently prepare an unfunded service package for Option 1 (Leaner Funding) for future consideration by City Council as part of the Fall 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget Adjustment.
- As additional funding was not approved, Administration will implement Option 1 (No Funding).

Introduction of New Business Licence Category

Retail Sales (Convenience Store)

- This new category will regulate businesses that sell new goods to consumers, such as packaged grocery and snack foods, confectionary, beverages, over-the-counter medication, toiletries, smoking accessories, small household items, among other things.
- Typically 350 square metres or less.
- Commonly combined with Tobacco and Vaping Product Sales, or Vehicle Wash / Fuelling Station categories.
- Businesses with this new category will be prohibited from selling knives of any kind, with an exception for basic cutlery.
- A new definition of 'Knife' will also be added to the Bylaw.

Implementation

- Full implementation will take a minimum of two years once Bylaw 20002 is amended.
- Targeted correspondence will be sent to all licensed tobacco retailers and gas stations - commonly associated with convenience stores.
- These licences will be flagged to ensure the renewal process cannot be finalized until a licensing advisor has reviewed their categories.

Enforcement

- The approach to enforcement will be predominantly complaint-based, with Municipal Enforcement Officers (MEOs) investigating complaints for unlicensed or incorrectly categorized businesses and applying enforcement action where appropriate, or flagging the file for administrative staff to apply the new category at the time of renewal.
- These complaints will not be prioritized over other types of complaints.

Questions and Thank You

Name, Position
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