

Corporate Report

NO: R083

COUNCIL DATE: April 18, 2005



REGULAR

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: March 31, 2005
FROM: City Solicitor FILE: 4320-90/#2
SUBJECT: Personal Play Bingo

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve the amendments to Business License By law, 1999, No. 13680 (the "Business License By law") attached as Appendix "A";
2. Approve the amendments to Zoning By law, 1993, No. 12000 (the "Zoning By law") attached as Appendix "B"; and
3. Instruct the City Clerk to introduce the appropriate amending by laws in accordance with the appendices to this report.

INTENT

The proposed amendments to the definition of "slot machines" will allow personal play bingo against a computer within a bingo hall and by those charities associated with the bingo hall in the City of Surrey.

BACKGROUND

The one provincially licensed bingo hall in the City currently has terminals installed that provide the ability for "personal play" options as part of the bingo games. These options allow customers to play bingo against the computer or to play the e tab or e scratch generated by these computers. The City of Burnaby and District of Mission currently have these established within their bingo centres and allowed within their by laws. Surrey's by laws currently do not allow for the use of personal play options.

DISCUSSION

Bingo Halls are defined in the Zoning By law as "*a recreational facility used or intended to be used for the purpose of playing bingo, where a license has been issued by the British Columbia Gaming Commission to charitable or religious organizations as a licensee, but does not include casino halls.*"

The only bingo hall to be licensed by the British Columbia Gaming Commission in Surrey is Bingo Country located at 7093 King George Highway, Surrey, BC. It is operated by Boardwalk Gaming & Entertainment Inc. Approximately 82 charities are involved with Bingo Country and they receive approximately 25% of the net income of the bingo hall. A representative of Bingo Country, in support of its request to have the zoning definition change, advises that it has experienced a decrease in bingo admissions and revenues since the introduction of slot machines at Fraser Downs. It is submitted by Bingo Country that the introduction of personal play bingo will lessen the financial impact of slot machines on its operations and its charities.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council approve these amendments to the Business License and Zoning By law to allow the introduction of an increasingly popular form of bingo gaming.

CRAIG MacFARLANE
City Solicitor

CM:mlg
Attach.

c.c. John Sherstone, Manager, By law & Licensing

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APPENDIX "A"

**Proposed Amendment to
Surrey Business License By-law, 1999,
No. 13680 as amended (the "By-law")**

That the definition of "*Slot Machine Gaming*" in Section 2 of the By law be amended by inserting at the end of the current

definition the following:

, but such devices shall not include an electronic machine programmed to allow personal play whereby a person is able to play bingo against a computer or to play e-tabs or e-scratches generated by a computer

APPENDIX "B"

**Proposed Amendment to
Surrey Zoning By-law, 1993,
No. 12000, as amended (the "By law")**

That the definition of "**Slot Machine Gaming**" in Part 1 of the By law be amended by inserting at the end of the current definition the following:

, but such devices shall not include an electronic machine programmed to allow personal play where a person is able to play bingo against a computer or to play e-tabs or e-scratches generated by a computer