

Supplementary Report - Implementation of O.Reg 1/26 under the Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019 in the City of Toronto

Date: April 22, 2026

To: City Council

From: City Clerk

Wards: All

SUMMARY

This report responds to Executive Committee's request to report to City Council with any required by-law or delegated authority amendments for the implementation of the upcoming regulatory changes to the Liquor Licence and Control Act, 2019, as amended by O. Reg. 1/26 related to "bring-your-own" events. This report recommends delegating authority to the City Clerk to process and issue letters of endorsement for requests for Bring-Your-Own Event permits, similar to the existing delegation related to Special Occasion Permits and Temporary Extension of Liquor Licences.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. City Council update the delegation of authority to the City Clerk to designate an event a cultural or community event and issue a letter of endorsement to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for requests for Bring-your-own Event permits, effective April 30, 2026, as set out in Attachment 1 to the report.
2. City Council update the delegation of authority to the City Clerk to include changes to the administrative process for bring-your-own Events as set out in Attachment 2 to the report.
3. City Council amend City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 743, Streets and Sidewalks, Use of to provide for the sale, possession and/or consumption of alcohol on the public right-of-way during street events, subject to a permit issued by the General Manager of Transportation Services.

4. City Council request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to report on any lessons learned from the implementation of Bring-your-own Event permits as part of the forthcoming report to Council on the City's approach to temporary liquor licensing.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

Executive Committee at its meeting held on April 15, 2026 directed the City Clerk, in consultation with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, to report to the April 22, 2026 meeting of City Council with any required by-law or delegated authority amendments for the implementation of the regulatory changes made by O. Reg. 1/26 for "bring-your-own" events:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2026.EX30.12>

City Council at its meeting held on February 7 and 8, 2023 adopted a report to make the CaféTO program permanent and amend Chapter 742, Sidewalk Cafés, Parklets and Marketing Displays, which made changes to the requirements and permissions for the permitting of curb lane cafés.

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2023/ex/bgrd/backgroundfile-233882.pdf>

City Council at its meeting held on December 13, 14 and 15, 2023, requested the City Clerk, in consultation with the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture, the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, the Medical Officer of Health, the Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services, the Chief and General Manager, Toronto Paramedic Services, the Chief, Toronto Police Services and the City Solicitor, to include additional considerations, including further clarifications of the city's definition of municipal significance, as part of a request to review the steps to obtain a temporary liquor licence in 2023.EX3.8.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EC8.13>

City Council at its meeting on March 29, 30 and 31, 2023, updated the delegation of authority to the City Clerk to designate an event of municipal significance for Special Occasion Permits and Temporary Liquor Extension of Hours and to approve Temporary Extension of Premises for liquor purposes (Outdoor Patios). City Council also requested the City Clerk, in consultation with staff from Municipal Licensing and Standards, Economic Development and Culture, Legal Services, Toronto Fire Services, and the Toronto Police Service, to review the steps to obtain a temporary liquor licence, and to recommend guidelines and/or a consultative process that may aid a Councillor's review of such requests.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.EX3.8>

City Council, at its meeting held on March 27 and 28, 2019 delegated the authority to the City Clerk to designate an event of municipal significance and/or issue a letter of non-objection to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for requests for Special Occasion Permits and the Temporary Extension of Liquor Licences that meet a certain criteria, including consultation with the ward Councillor.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.EX3.7>

COMMENTS

The Province is changing the Liquor Licence and Control Act regulations around bring-your-own events (formerly tailgate events)

Effective April 30, 2026, the Province of Ontario will expand the liquor licence permit category for “bring-your-own” events (formerly known as tailgate events) to include cultural and community outdoor events such as neighbourhood festivals, movie screenings, art exhibits, and farmer’s markets.

According to the regulation, a “Bring-your-own Event” means a public event that is held at an outdoor premises that is at ground level,

- (a) where the event,
 - (i) is held in connection with and in proximity to a professional, semi-professional or post-secondary sporting event, or
 - (ii) has been designated by a municipal council or its delegate as a cultural or community event, and
- (b) at which individuals may possess and consume liquor brought to the premises by attendees;

To obtain a Bring-your-own Event permit that is contingent on a designation of a municipal council or its delegate, the applicant must provide proof of designation of the event as a cultural or community event.

City Council has delegated authority to the City Clerk to process similar requests related to temporary liquor permits

Through item 2019.EX3.7, City Council delegated authority to the City Clerk to designate an event of municipal significance and/or issue a letter of non-objection to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario for requests for Special Occasion Permits for public events. Since the delegation was put in place, the City Clerk's Office developed a process to consider requests to endorse events for public Special Occasion Permits that includes input from the local Councillor. The Bring-your-own Event permit is a type of Special Occasion Permit and can be considered using a similar process.

City Council should update its delegation to the City Clerk to include Bring-your-own Events

The designation process is outlined in Attachment 1. It mirrors the existing process for applications for Special Occasion Permits and Temporary Extension of Liquor Licences, where the City Clerk confirms that the application is complete, that the event meets the criteria, and notifies the local Councillor who may object to the event being deemed a "cultural or community event" for the purposes of the regulation.

Some amendments to the existing administrative procedures for temporary liquor licences to cover the Bring-your-own Event permits are included in Attachment 2.

If City Council does not approve the delegation, bring-your-own event permit requests will be submitted to City Council for approval.

An amendment to the Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 743, Streets and Sidewalks is required to implement these types of events

In addition to the delegation to the Clerk, Council should also amend Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 743, Streets and Sidewalks, Use of, to permit the sale, possession and/or consumption of alcohol on the public right-of-way during street events, subject to a permit issued by Transportation Services. This would enable street event organizers to apply for the new permit.

The City Clerk's Office has consulted with Transportation Services on the specific amendments to Chapter 743 to ensure alignment with the regulatory changes introduced by O.Reg. 1/26.

In the alternative, City Council can decide not to create a designation process

City Council could also decide to not create a process to designate events as "cultural or community events". Event organizers would continue to be able to apply for a "bring-your-own" event permit in connection with and in proximity to a sporting event. In that case, no action is required.

A report on broader changes to liquor endorsements and approvals will be coming to Council in Q2 2026

This forthcoming report will address Council's outstanding directives on temporary liquor licensing from items [2023.EX3.8](#) and [2023.EC8.13](#). This report is led by Economic Development and Culture and will provide further updates to the City's process for endorsing and approving temporary liquor licence applications, including additional considerations for bring-your-own event permits.

CONTACT

Kelly McCarthy, Deputy City Clerk, Secretariat, kelly.mccarthy@toronto.ca, 416-392-8676

SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Delegation of Authority to the City Clerk related to Bring-your-own Event permits

Attachment 2 – Proposed Amendments to Administrative Procedures Regarding the Existing Delegation of Authority to the City Clerk for Temporary Liquor Licences