



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Planning Committee
FROM: Alan Clark
Manager, Zoning
RE: Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7148
Amendment Bylaw No. 7284

DATE: September 19, 2001
FILE: 0107-10-01

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Bylaw No 7284 which amends Schedule A of Business Regulation Bylaw No 7148 to include:

- 4391 No 3 Road;
- #2060 – 4580 No 3 Road;
- #128 – 8531 Alexandra Road;
- #118 – 8571 Alexandra Road;
- #116 – 8328 Capstan way;
- #1463 – 8388 Capstan Way;
- #1110 – 4651 Garden City Road;
- #125 – 4751 Garden City Road; and
- #2167 – 3779 Sexsmith Road, among the geographic areas in which a video arcade may operate, be introduced and given first, second and third readings.

Ac.

Alan Clark
Manager, Zoning

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Law.....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>[Signature]</i> see attached memo

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

Staff has received applications for the establishment of video arcades (amusement centres) at:
Hi-Lite Billiards. 4391 No 3 Road. (9 machines);
PC Station. #2060 – 4580 No 3 Road. (20 machines);
Bar Code Online Game Center. #128 – 8531 Alexandra Road. (20 machines);
Extreme Zone Internet Co. #118 – 8571 Alexandra Road. (20 machines);
Cybermania Internet Rental. #116 – 8328 Capstan Way. (19 machines);
Storm Internet Service Centre. #1463 – 8388 Capstan Way. (23 machines);
Atec Internet Café. #1110 – 4651 Garden City Road. (36 machines);
Pro Gamer. #125 – 4751 Garden City Road. (40 machines); and
BC 1 Online. #2167 – 3779 Sexsmith Road. (30 machines).

Video arcades are currently restricted to locations specified in Schedule A of the Business Regulation Bylaw No 7148. The proposed sites are not identified in the Bylaw.

ANALYSIS

The properties listed are all currently zoned Automobile – Oriented Commercial District (C6). A classification which permits, among other uses, commercial entertainment.

Video arcades fall within the ambit of commercial entertainment.

To this point in time, the “conventional” arcade has used standard amusement machines for playing games, and the City has imposed strict operating hours within which arcades would be permitted to operate.

Over the last couple of months businesses have opened up as “Internet Cafes”, where a coffee shop operates, complete with computers for customers to go on the internet, for a fee, while having coffee and snacks.

However, site visits by staff have identified that these establishments are in fact operating the computers as game playing amusement machines, for a fee.

By operating on the pretext of an “internet café”, these establishments felt they could operate without any hours of operation restrictions or any need to adhere to the Amusement Centre regulations in the Business Regulation Bylaw.

Staff have taken the position that they are indeed arcades, and that they would require Council approval to operate. The eight listed businesses have all made application to the City to be considered a Video Arcade and to comply with all the requirements in the Business Regulation Bylaw.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Nil.

CONCLUSION

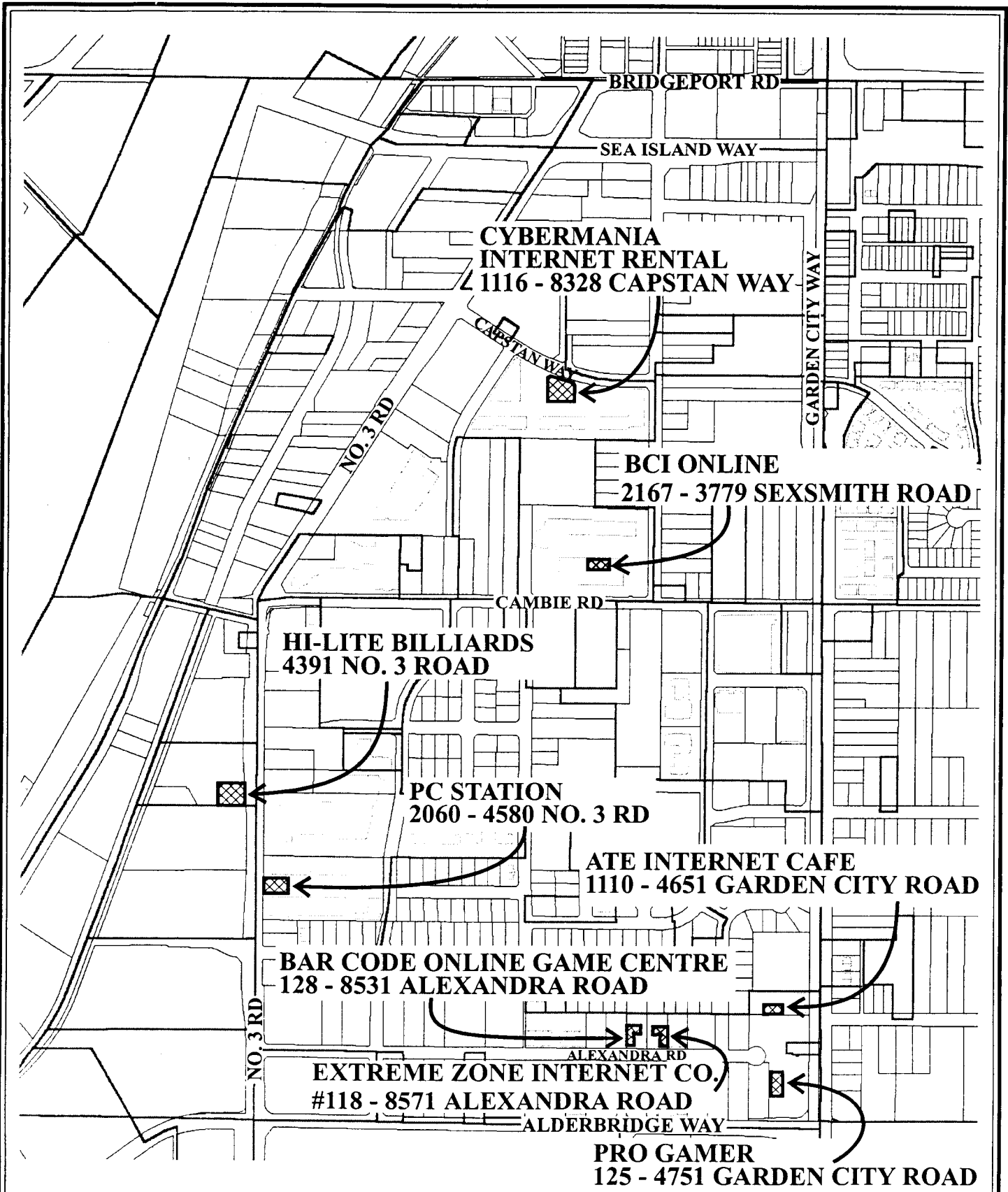
The concept of the "internet café" is fairly new, and is growing in popularity, as the eight listed requests can attest, and is expected to continue.

Staff feel that such establishments should be regulated in the same manner as the conventional arcades to create a level playing field and to control the hours of operation, and can offer no reasons why the eight applications presented to operate video arcades should not be favourably considered.



Alan Clark
Manager, Zoning

AJC:ajc



Amusement Centre Locations

Date
09/06/01



CITY OF RICHMOND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Committee
FROM: David McLellan
General Manager, Urban Development

DATE: September 24, 2001
FILE: 0107-10-01

RE: **Business Regulation Bylaw No. 7148**

Although I have no particular concern with the amendments proposed in Mr. Clark's report to Committee dated September 19, 2001, the impact of the regulation limiting the location of arcades to special geographic locations has been eroded significantly. The original regulation was put in place as a means of controlling certain problems with activities associated with arcades. Since that time dozens of new locations have been permitted and the technology has changed considerably. This may be an appropriate time for Committee and Council to give direction to staff to bring forward amendments to the bylaw which would eliminate the need for these specific locational amendments and to consider the establishment of a district with no limits on operating hours as a means of encouraging the establishment of these businesses in a defined area of the community. The benefit of this approach would then be to allow the concentration of law enforcement activities in the late night hours to these defined areas.

David McLellan
General Manager, Urban Development

DJM:djm