

## **Bid made for boutique liquor store; [Final Edition]**

*Kim Westad. Times - Colonist. Victoria, B.C.: Jul 20, 2007. pg. B.2*

A proposed boutique-style liquor store in James Bay Square will go to a public hearing in the fall, even though it is only 100 metres from a government-run liquor outlet.

But owner Paul Hadfield, who also owns **Spinnakers** Brewpub and **Spinnakers** Spirit Merchants in Vic West, said the private store would sell wines and spirits not available at the government store in Parliament Mews.

"Our intention is to bring in a range of product different from the conventional selection at the [liquor store] across the street," Hadfield said.

City guidelines for liquor stores say they shouldn't be within 200 metres of each other, although a reduced distance may be warranted in locations such as neighbourhoods or district centres.

Hadfield envisions his store selling wines from small-lot wineries on Vancouver Island and the Okanagan, and has no interest in competing with the nearby liquor store by carrying the same products. "My interest is in the stuff that is unconventional, that we don't see every day."

City staff recommended that the application, which would require zoning amendments, go to a public hearing so residents would have a chance to voice their opinions. Council will make its decision after the hearing.

Plans call for the 200-square-metre store to have an adjacent tasting room, where customers could buy tasters of the alcohol sold at the store along with small plates of food, likely artisan bread, cheeses and meats from local producers.

"It will enable patrons to do more than take a leap of faith on a wine recommendation," Hadfield said.

But the owners of Parliament Mews shopping centre at 230 Menzies St. aren't in favour of the rezoning. A letter written by Ruth Carson of behalf of Yennadon Holdings Ltd. says a liquor store already exists in the area, and has for 35 years.

The company has had to deal with a variety of problems associated with a liquor store, such as vandalism, panhandling and public urination -- all of which have increased in the last five years. The problems will only be compounded with another liquor outlet, especially if it has extended hours, the letter said.

A date for the hearing will be set by the end of August, and will likely be at the end of September or early October.