

To: Mayor and Council

June 15, 2017

Re: North Park cannabis storefront recommendations

The North Park Neighbourhood Association held a special meeting on June 7, 2017 to discuss the number and location of cannabis storefronts in and around our neighbourhood. The 40 attendees included residents, business owners, non-profit organizations, cannabis users and cannabis retailers. Also in attendance were two Downtown Neighbourhood Association representatives, two City representatives (Council Liaison Jeremy Loveday and Cannabis Planner Mike Angrove) and Victoria Police Constable Sean Hand. Attendees voiced their appreciation for the opportunity to have a ‘big picture’ conversation that would not be possible by looking at each property in isolation at a public hearing.

Consensus was reached on four main points, and these form the basis of our “North Park cannabis storefront recommendations” that we ask you apply when considering licensing storefronts **in and around** our neighbourhood. These recommendations are grounded in North Park’s goal of economic diversity and affordable rents for businesses; extensive research into best practices and public health policy that speaks to the negative impacts on neighbourhood ecology and lost opportunity costs from an overconcentration of cannabis storefronts; and the thoughtful, carefully considered comments of meeting attendees.

1. **Expand the list of 200m buffered activities** to include organizations and facilities serving children and youth, including daycares and social agencies serving vulnerable members of this demographic. See “buffered organizations/activities” chart on page 2. Please note that while many meeting attendees felt the 200m buffer to be inconsistent with existing private liquor store laws, lower than those in other jurisdictions licensing cannabis dispensaries, and most notably lower than the recommendations of expert public health officials, consensus could not be reached on a preferred buffer.
2. **Use Temporary Use Permits (TUPs)**, not Rezoning, to address land use in compliance with our expanded buffer. Due to their temporary nature, meeting attendees felt strongly that TUPs are more suitable for addressing land use of existing storefronts while awaiting Federal/Provincial Guidelines. Related points: Council can assume the authority to approve these TUPs at a public hearing, and TUP fees can be set to recover staff time.
3. **Follow through on promise of active enforcement** of currently non-complying businesses, including using the \$1,000/day fine committed to during the development phase of City guidelines. Meeting attendees expressed deep concern that significant enforcement tools are not being utilized, and voiced extreme frustration that yet another unlicensed storefront has opened in our neighbourhood on Fisgard behind the CannaMall.
4. **Take responsibility for your influence on public health** by working with Island Health to develop clear policy that builds on emerging best practices around population thresholds/caps and public health impacts.

With thanks,

The North Park Neighbourhood Association

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Buffered child and youth organizations and activities in and around North Park

The organizations and facilities serving children and youth in and around North Park include but are not limited to those in the chart below. Note: there may be new child/youth organizations that we are not aware of. We ask City Staff to reconfirm this list as part of the application review process.

Intercultural Association - 930 Balmoral
George Jay Elementary School - 1118 Princess
Hulitan Family & Community Services - 1911 Quadra
Phillippines Community Centre - 1709 Blanshard
Victoria Children’s Centre Daycare - 1515 Blanshard
Keystone Church - 804 Queens
Masjid Al-Iman Mosque - 2218 Quadra
First Baptist Church - 877 North Park
First Metropolitan Church - 932 Balmoral
Central Baptist Church - 833 Pandora
Congregation Emmanuel & Shalom Daycare - 1461 Blanshard
Victoria Conservatory of Music - 900 Johnson
Friends of Tiggers Afterschool Daycare - 1110 Caledonia
Kiwanis Emergency Youth Centre - 2117 Vancouver
Franklin Green Park - 1019-1045 Mason Street
Crystal Pool Recreation Centre and Central Park
Save-On-Foods Centre - 1925 Blanshard
Victoria Pregnancy Centre - 826 North Park
Chinese Pentecostal Church - 2215 Dowler Place
Chinese Presbyterian Church - 816 North Park
Glad Tidings Church - 1800 Quadra
St John The Divine Anglican Church - 1611 Quadra
Ukrainian Catholic Church - 1112 Caledonia
Open Door Spiritualist Church - 1600 Cook
Royal Athletic Park - 1014 Caledonia