

## Kazakoff, Laura

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2015 10:56 AM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to the Elected Leaders of the City of Vancouver, Canada

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**From:** s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 13, 2015 5:57 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to the Elected Leaders of the City of Vancouver, Canada

In addition to the email below,

In regards to the serious charge of "Aiding and Abetting a Criminal Enterprise". While each of you could be charged by the Canadian Department of Justice with aiding and abetting each of the 100+ marijuana dispensaries within your city limits should you decide to approve the ordinance under consideration, you should also be aware that the marijuana product provided to these dispensaries can come from several other criminal enterprises; I.E., Hell's Angels Motorcycle Gang, Italian Mafia, Vietnamese Mafia (which are proliferated across Canada), Mexican and Latin American Drug Cartels.

When you consider "Aiding and Abetting the Criminal Marijuana Dispensaries" you are also in effect "Aiding and Abetting" those who provide these illegal dispensaries their marijuana. You should consider this very seriously.

There is a very good reason why the dispensary owners refuse to divulge their sources of marijuana product.....and you should infatically insist that Mr. Larson and the other dispensary owners be 100% transparent about where they get their marijuana from. If the federal government investigates and finds that they are getting it from criminal enterprises, you very well could be legally charged for aiding and abetting these sources too.

Once again, your very future (both freedom and financial) could depend on it.

Best regards,

Ronald L. Kirkish, CDFC/IFBC/CALM

**From:** s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 13, 2015 5:06 PM  
**To:** City of Vancouver Canada  
**Subject:** Letter to the Elected Leaders of the City of Vancouver, Canada

**To: The Honorable Gregor Robertson, Mayor of the City of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada**

**Members of the Vancouver City Council:**  
**George Affleck**  
**Elisabeth Ball**

**Adriane Carr  
Melissa De Genova  
Heather Deal  
Kerry Jang  
Raymond Lowie  
Geoff Meggs  
Andrea Reimer  
Tim stevenson**

From: Ronald L. Kirkish, CDFC/IFBC/CALM

Date: June 13, 2015

Regarding: Marijuana dispensaries operating illegally within the jurisdiction of the City of Vancouver, CA.

Dear Mayor Robertson and Et. Al.,

You have received many emails, letters, and other literature from those like Ms. Pamela McColl of SAM-Canada, and the esteemed Dr. Philip Seeman, among many others who have suggested that the mayor and members of the city council deny approving the ordinance to allow marijuana dispensaries (now 100+) to operate within the city limits of Vancouver.

You have also received communications from the Canadian Department of Justice, Department of Health Canada, and from the Office of the Prime Minister.

By now, you have all been made more than aware of the negative effects of marijuana abuse on the brains of youth.

So, I won't trouble you with further information on that topic.

However, my intention is to give you fair warning that by defying the Federal Government of Canada, you will be placing yourselves in direct conflict with your federal government and its drug laws.

The Prime Minister of Canada has also given you public warning that he intends to fully enforce Canada's Drug Laws, including in the City of Vancouver.

Should you decide to defy the Federal Government you will be placing yourselves at risks of incarceration and a very stiff financial fine, for "Aiding and Abetting a Criminal Enterprise".

I am very sure that when each of you decided to serve the Citizens of Vancouver, the last thing you wanted to do was risk your personal liberty and loss of your personal fortune, just so a kid can smoke a marijuana joint.

I strongly suggest that each of you consult your City Attorney so that there is absolutely no doubt in your minds regarding the serious risks you face when full force and might of the federal governments department of justice comes down on your individual heads.

In addition, I would strongly suggest that each of you seek your own personal legal council as you may not want to rely just on the legal advice of the Vancouver City Attorney. The City Attorney's responsibility is to protect the City of Vancouver.....not necessarily elected officials. I hope you take this advice extremely serious, your futures could very well depend on it.

Once again, I find it very strange that such educated persons like yourselves would actually consider placing yourselves at such great risk just so a kid can smoke a joint.

Best regards,

Ronald L. Kirkish,  
Citizens Against Legalizing Marijuana  
International Faith Based Coalition

**Kazakoff, Laura**

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**From:** Bradford McIntyre s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2015 11:18 AM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office; Stevenson, Tim; Louie, Raymond  
**Cc:** Public Hearing; Ball, Elizabeth; Carr, Adriane; Carr, Adriane  
**Subject:** Re: Statement issued by the city - Marijuana edibles should be banned from marijuana - related retailers

Mayor Gregor Robinson & Vancouver City Council

I read the Metro article by Emily Jackson: **Edible marijuana at centre of Vancouver's pot debate** <http://metronews.ca/news/vancouver/1394857/edible-marijuana-at-centre-of-vancouvers-pot-debate/>

I am writing with regards to the statement issued by the city, that edibles should be banned from marijuana –related retailers, and reaffirming the stance of city manager Dr. Penny Ballemand Vancouver Coastal Health officer Dr. Patricia Daly.

Wrong!

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that medical Marijuana users have a constitutional right to use edible cannabis products.

The City is out of touch with what has been going on with medical marijuana products. Patients have been using edible products for many years and the City has no business interfering with the availability of edibles, let alone talking about or putting into place, a ban!

I have been living infected with HIV for 31 years. Sickness, due to both HIV and the medications to treat HIV/AIDS, have meant I have been a medicinal marijuana user for some 20 years with Memberships at Medicinal Marijuana Dispensaries.

HIV/AIDS patients, cancer patients, and patients with other illnesses, relay on medicinal marijuana products for relief; many of which do not smoke marijuana and use edible products instead.

I suffer from excruciating pain, due to the deterioration of the nerves in of my legs, called neuropathy, caused by the HIV/AIDS medication AZT, in 1990. Drugs to treat the pain are too harsh and upset my stomach, to be using pharmaceutical drugs as often as I need relief. Over these 31 years living with HIV/AIDS, I have been near death several times, suffered from opportunistic infections, and had to deal with the side effects of the medications to treat HIV/AIDS. Medicinal marijuana has played an important role in both my recovery and daily wellness.

There is mounting evidence that marijuana helps people infected with HIV.

Recent article: Jun 8, 2015- Study Finds UBC researcher gets \$1-million grant to study link between pot, HIV/AIDS

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/ubc-researcher-gets-1-million-grant-to-study-link-between-pot-hiv-aids/article24839207/article>

The idea that marijuana is beneficial to people infected with HIV is not new and evidence has been mounting over the years.

See: Feb 9, 2014: Marijuana May Fight HIV

<http://www.leafscience.com/2014/02/09/marijuana-may-fight-hiv-study-finds/#tab-pop>

Medical Marijuana, and in particular, edibles, have played an important role, providing relief, allowing me to actually feel better and participate in life. Often, I have had to deal with pain, nausea, headaches, no appetite, no energy, and it has been medicinal marijuana, including edibles, that have brought me relief.

Today, in many places smoking is not allowed! How am I to get relief, when out and about, when smoking is not allowed? Certainly, I cannot smoke marijuana when in a restaurant, park or at a beach, due to smoking bans!

Medicinal marijuana edibles are not candies, they are specifically made marijuana products, for patients who need and want the relief medicinal marijuana products provide, or do not, or prefer not to smoke marijuana.

I am opposed to the City banning edibles! A said ban, would be drastic for myself and countless other patients who rely on medical marijuana edibles for relief. To my knowledge, there has not been a child poisoned by medical marijuana edible products in Canada, and this stance that edibles should be banned is fear mongering, on the part of the City and Vancouver Coastal Health. Edible medicinal marijuana products have been available in British Columbia for decades.

I want my voice be heard, in order to prevent the City from banning edible medicinal marijuana products. The City has no business interfering with my medicine!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Bradford McIntyre, HIV+ since 1984

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*www.PositivelyPositive.ca*  
DESIGNED TO CREATE HIV & AIDS AWARENESS

Bradford McIntyre, HIV+ since 1984

**[www.PositivelyPositive.ca](http://www.PositivelyPositive.ca)**

**Designed to create awareness around the many HIV and AIDS issues  
and promotes messages of positive living with HIV.**

**Vancouver, B.C. Canada**



[www.pointgreyvillage.com](http://www.pointgreyvillage.com)

June 12, 2015

Mayor and Council,

The Point Grey Village Business Association, BIA, represents approximately 280 commercial properties and businesses on West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, between Tolmie and Discovery Streets. The Board of Directors of the PGVBA, on behalf of its members, has been carefully watching the rapid increase of unlicensed businesses within other BIAs in the city, namely the retail marijuana dealers. We can tell that these businesses have been allowed to proliferate despite the fact that they are breaking Canada's federal law and the City of Vancouver's own bylaws.

At present, there are no retail marijuana dealers in Point Grey Village that we know of, and we are worried that it is only a matter of time before they start appearing within our BIA. We are concerned that even one retail marijuana dealer in our area would cause major safety, health, business viability and other issues for our members, their clients and Point Grey residents.

We are of the opinion that a proper and detailed analysis needs to be undertaken. We believe that the \$30,000 annual business license fee that has been proposed for the above mentioned businesses, would create a perturbing precedent that could be applied to other business license categories later on.

We therefore request that City of Vancouver bylaws be implemented without prejudice and that all businesses operating within the City be required to meet all federal and provincial laws, and municipal bylaws.

In closing, we ask that Vancouver City Council and the Vancouver Police Department take steps to close all unlicensed businesses that are engaged in the sale of any marijuana products.

Sincerely,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Michael McBride  
President  
Point Grey Village Business Association

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June 10, 2015

Mayor Gregor Robertson and Councillors  
Vancouver City Council  
City of Vancouver  
453 West 12th Avenue  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
V5Y 1V4

**SUBJECT: Regulation of Retail Dealers – Medical Marijuana-Related Uses**

Mayor and Council,

The purpose of this letter is to communicate our Board of Directors' unanimous position on the City of Vancouver's proposal to regulate retail dealers who sell marijuana.

It is our understanding that the retail marijuana dealers currently operating within the city have no business license; have not complied with any of the City by-laws; did not follow procedures in applying for and securing the necessary building and occupancy permits; were not duly inspected for compliance of the same; and, are openly breaking federal laws in how they obtain their supply of marijuana, and how and who they sell or distribute it to.

As you are aware, we represent over 8,000 businesses within our 90-block district. In the process of formulating this position we consulted two of our committees comprised of a broad cross-section of members and we also liaised with other business groups in the city. The most frequent comment we heard was the blatant double standard at play here. Legitimate and licensed businesses, especially those in the food and beverage industry, are subject to regular scrutiny, enforcement that includes fines, suspension and revocation of business licenses. The retail marijuana dealers have clearly contravened municipal, provincial and federal laws with impunity.

With this as a background, we have decided to comment on the City's proposed regulatory framework only when the Federal Government changes the law to permit retail businesses to purchase legal supplies of marijuana and to sell or distribute to persons who are legally permitted to possess it. We are of the opinion that the Federal Government must amend the laws first before the city can regulate what is at present illegal everywhere in the country.

Recognizing that the City may still consider imposition of a regulatory framework, we wish to highlight the following:

- 1. As a matter of principle, no business license should be issued to a business that operates contrary to provincial or federal law.**

The Vancouver Charter, Section 273 (1) (b) allows City Council to create a by-law that establishes terms and conditions of a business



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The Refinery / SIP Resto-Lounge

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Rose Ma  
Block 81 Holdings Ltd

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Brook Pooni Associates

Dani Pretto  
Vanterre Projects Corp

Caroline Ternes  
Starbucks Coffee Company

Jon Wellman  
Bentall Kennedy

**PRESIDENT AND CEO:**

Charles Gauthier  
Downtown Vancouver BIA



license. City of Vancouver License Bylaw 4450, section 4, sub-section 8 fulfils that power and states:

“Every license holder must comply with all federal and provincial law and the issuance by the City of a license is not a representation of any kind that a business is compliant with any federal, provincial or other laws, including by-laws.”

From our perspective, the City’s proposal to create a license category whereby a holder cannot even begin to comply with current federal drug laws and is thereby engaged in an illegal act, does not make any sense. The City is fully aware that these are illegal operations and that they would be enabling these businesses in breaking the law.

**2. No regulatory framework should be imposed without proper analysis of resources that will be needed for enforcement.**

We are concerned that the limited and valuable resources of the City, the Vancouver Police Department and other agencies will be expended to regulate and enforce against businesses engaged in illegal products and activities.

It is our opinion that a proper and detailed analysis has not been undertaken, but instead a \$30,000 annual business license fee is being proposed. In the Policy Report—Health dated April 21, 2015 submitted to Vancouver City Council for review, the fee of \$30,000 was proposed and justified as follows:

“Revenues will contribute to cost recovery for the additional time spent by Property Use Inspectors, Licensing staff, development staff review, Police, Fire Inspectors and Communications Coordinators in regulating this sector.” (page 12, Policy Report—Health, Vancouver City Council, April 21, 2015.)

Our interpretation of the above statement is that the taxpayer, not the retail marijuana dealers, will bear the majority of the costs that are unknown at this time.

**3. No licensing scheme should be imposed which is discriminatory to any one category of business.**

Retail marijuana dealers have expressed concerns about the \$30,000 annual business license fee and it is highly likely that this will be challenged. From our perspective, this exorbitant fee establishes a worrisome precedent that could be applied to other business license categories.

In summary, retail marijuana dealers are clearly breaking the law. The City’s own License By-Law states that license holders must comply with federal laws, as well as other statutes, so granting licenses to these dealers puts the City off-side. The Vancouver taxpayers deserve a proper analysis of resources required to regulate and

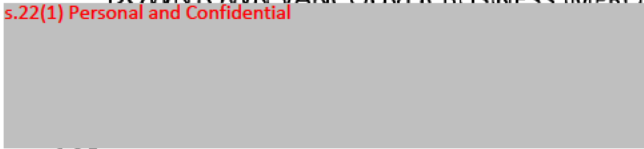
enforce these dealers. The \$30,000 license fee is likely to be challenged because it is discriminatory and taxpayers will likely be footing the bill to regulate illegal businesses.

In closing, we ask that Vancouver City Council and the Vancouver Police Department take steps to **close all unlicensed businesses** that are engaged in the sale of any and all marijuana products.

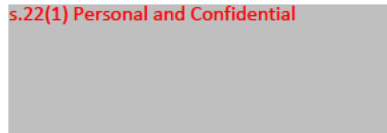
Sincerely,

DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



 Peter Raptis  
Chair

Charles Gauthier, MCP  
President and CEO

June 17, 2015

City of Vancouver

Dear Mayor and Council:

At its meeting of June 17<sup>th</sup> the Kerrisdale Business Association (BIA) Board of Directors unanimously passed the following resolution:

***“That the KBA Board informs the City of Vancouver elected officials that they are opposed to illegal Marijuana Dispensaries that are without Business Permits thereby breaking the City’s own bylaw which all other businesses must abide by. Until such time as the Federal Government approves and regulates the storefront sale of medical marijuana these currently 93 rogue businesses should be curtailed by City enforcement officers. The same operational standards should be applied to all businesses in the City of Vancouver.”***

Thank you for any positive action your bylaw enforcers must take with respect to the above.

Sincerely,

David Skogstad  
President  
Kerrisdale Business Association

**Kazakoff, Laura**

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2015 1:31 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: Marijuana Dispensary Advertising and Solicitation  
**Attachments:** image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt; image2.JPG; ATT00002.txt

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Claudia Laroye s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2015 10:45 AM  
**To:** Toma, Andreea; Kuhlmann, Thor  
**Cc:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office; s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Subject:** Marijuana Dispensary Advertising and Solicitation

Dear Andrea and Thor,

Please find attached several photographs of chalk 'art' advertising on the public sidewalk along Granville St in the Marpole commercial district. The advertising appears to be from an illegal Marijuana Dispensary operating in the area.

The location of this advertising is less than 50 metres from the entrance of the Marpole Branch Library, a popular hangout and destination for children, youth and families.

Please advise on the bylaw procedures and enforcement that the City will undertake regarding this issue, at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for your prompt attention and assistance.

Regards,  
Claudia Laroye  
Marpole BIA



840  
VILLE

DIVINE  
DISPENSARY



WIDE

BOB

THE

THE

840

WVILLE



WIDE



**Kazakoff, Laura**

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2015 4:09 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: Council uses new anti-social behavior power to close down cannabis factory

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2015 6:25 PM  
**To:** Carr, Adriane; Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office; Ball, Elizabeth; Meggs, Geoff; Affleck, George; Jang, Kerry; De Genova, Melissa; Stevenson, Tim  
**Subject:** Fw: Council uses new anti-social behaviour power to close down cannabis factory

To: The Honorable Gregor Robertson and fellow elected leaders of the City of Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

From: Ronald L. Kirkish

Date: June 16, 2015

Dear Mayor Roberson, Et. Al.,

I wanted to share this important article from the City of Southwark in the United Kingdom.

As you can see from this article, the city has been dealing with issues regarding "Anti-Social Behaviors" associated with marijuana abuse.

The problem is so bad and widespread that a "Special Power" was created in the United Kingdom to deal with it called "The Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act".

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Ronald L. Kirkish, CDFC/IFBC/CALM

## **Council uses new anti-social behaviour power to close down cannabis factory**

<http://www.24dash.com/news/housing/2015-06-16-Council-uses-new-anti-social-behaviour-power-to-close-down-cannabis-factory>

Published by Rebecca McAdam - Tuesday 16th June 2015 - 7:39am [United Kingdom]

Southwark Council and the police have used new **anti-social behaviour powers** to repossess a council flat that was being used as a cannabis factory.

Earlier this year, the culprit was sentenced to nine months imprisonment for drug offences carried out at the property.

The council applied for a mandatory eviction notice using new powers under the **Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act**, which came into force in October 2014.

The new legislation **allows local councils to seek immediate possession of a property** where a tenant has committed a serious criminal offence at their tenancy.

This is the first time the powers have been exercised by the local council, signalling Southwark's **tough stance on drug related criminality and anti-social behaviour**, *which can be detrimental to local communities.*

Cllr Michael Situ, cabinet member for communities and safety, said: "**We are working with the police to address drug supply and the anti-social behaviour connected with it.**"

I hope this case sends out a clear message that we will use all of the powers available to us to **close down properties linked to drug activity and anti-social behaviour**, to help keep Southwark a safe place."

Cllr Richard Livingstone, cabinet member for housing, said: "Council properties are a precious resource that should go to those with the most need.

**We cannot allow a small minority of irresponsible tenants to bring misery to their local community**, and I'm sure most of our tenants will be really pleased to see us taking action against criminals."

During the eviction proceedings, the tenant surrendered the property to the council.

The home will now be made available to a housing applicant.

The council, the police and their partners have a range of tools and powers which equips them to deal with **anti-social behaviour**.

Measures in place include: **fixed penalty notices** and **on the spot fines**; issuing **injunctions and criminal behaviour orders** and in the most serious cases evicting tenants from their homes.



## Kazakoff, Laura

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2015 5:16 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: Opposing medical marijuana dispensaries

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**From:** Nancy Lee s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2015 3:52 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Opposing medical marijuana dispensaries

I would like to add my voice to those who oppose medical marijuana dispensaries. As the mother of a teenager I am greatly concerned about what I see happening in high schools these days with the "normalization" of marijuana. Because marijuana has become associated with "medicine" the kids seem to think that it must be okay to smoke. It is my understanding from my research in this is that the more kids perceive that there is little risk, the more the usage increases. Yes, the cannabis plant may have medicinal value but it is my understanding that it the medicinal part of the plant can be taken in pill form. If this is the case, why not make it available in pharmacies instead of having these shops on every street corner selling pot which end up in the hands of our youth. I am very concerned about the damage this dangerous drug is doing to the minds and brains of our youth. Marijuana can seriously limit a young person's educational, occupational and social development. It is also linked to mental illness, it is addictive, and it produces cognitive and motor function impairment that can present a safety hazard for drivers. With long term usage the adverse effects may be irreversible. Please shut down the dispensaries... they are only doing harm.

Nancy Lee

A concerned citizen

June 19, 2015

Re: Regulation of Retail Dealers – Medical Marijuana - Related Uses

The South Granville Business Improvement Association represents 450 property and business owners. As an organization, we have no desire to weigh in on the debate surrounding the legalization of Marijuana for medical and recreational use. That conversation is for federal politicians, the courts and the electorate. Under current law, Marijuana is an illegal substance to sell or possess unless you have a medical prescription and there are clear instructions and laws which outline how to obtain authorized medications. We may personally accept or reject those laws and instructions - but it is still the law.

From our prospective, the biggest concern is the vacuum created by a 'hands off' approach taken by the VPD, the City of Vancouver and the Courts. Public statements in the media by Vancouver Councilors and Staff have sent a signal to the Marijuana industry that they can establish, locate and operate businesses in Vancouver to sell Marijuana product with little or no interference. As a result, we now have 90 plus dispensaries scattered throughout the city and the numbers are growing. We also see early signs of other businesses attempting to sell Marijuana products as part of their retail product mix with no regard for consequences!

Even if the proposed regulations were to be adopted, it will take months - or even years for the corrective measures to be felt in our neighbourhoods. Our current situation should never have been allowed to happen and other jurisdictions in the country support the fact that it was not 'inevitable'. Enforcement of existing bylaws was all that was required to manage the situation.

The SGBIA wishes to echo the statements made by many of our BIA partners:

- (a) As a matter of principle no business license should be issued to a business that operates contrary to provincial or federal law: City of Vancouver Bylaw 4450, Section (4) (8);
- (b) No regulatory framework should be imposed without proper analysis of resources that will be needed for enforcement; and
- (c) No licensing scheme should be imposed which is discriminatory to any one category of business;

An issue of particular concern to our organization is the impact of 'illegal operations' on insurance coverage for adjacent businesses and properties. Our research has found that there is a real threat of insurance coverage being denied or cancelled if the presence of a Dispensary is not reported to an insurance provider. Also, if there is a loss that occurs as a result of an illegal operation such as fire damage or theft, a claim may be denied. Many of our businesses are tied in to long term leases that they cannot break. Lack of insurance could be devastating. In our South Granville



neighbourhood, vacant space remains so as prospective tenants consider the various risks involved with locating next door to a Dispensary.

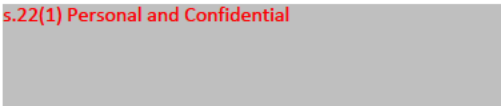
How can the City endorse 'illegal activity' that puts the viability of other businesses and tax payers at risk? From an economic development perspective, this is unacceptable.

It is imperative that the City ask the Insurance Bureau of Canada to speak to the insurance impacts of Dispensaries before any final recommendations are considered by Council.

We appreciate the fact that Vancouver finds itself in a difficult spot at this point in time. However, it is important to note that the health and welfare of our commercial neighbourhoods are at significant risk. The status quo cannot be allowed to continue. The only viable solution to the current situation is that decisive steps should be taken to close those illegal "pot shops" engaged in the sale of illegal product.

Regards,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Sharon Townsend, Executive Director  
South Granville Business Improvement Association

## Kazakoff, Laura

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2015 2:58 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** 311 Call Centre Feedback Refers to Item No. 1 - Text Amendment: Regulation of Retail Dealers - Medical Marijuana- Related Uses

June 16, 2015

Sender: Gordon Hamm

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Received via email:

One of the reasons Laws are made is to protect people from themselves. North America is the biggest user of prescription and illegal drugs. Canada and the USA dependency on illegal drugs is responsible for the 1000 of killings in Mexico and other areas of the world. Drugs are responsible for most of the crimes in Vancouver and surrounding areas. Medical pot is a farce. Canada is bowing to the chronic drug users in Canada. Why all of sudden is there an explosion of pot dispensaries in Vancouver? Is this just legal drug dealing?

Drugs are all about highs and pot leads to other drugs, Heroin, Hash, MDA, Crack, etc. You name it and the drug users have done it.

Vancouver has one of worst skid rows in the world and you can blame that on drugs, alcohol and "bleeding hearts". And by opening illegal pot dispensaries you are adding to the drug problem.

Here is an article in Wikipedia on Pot Dependency.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannabis\\_dependence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cannabis_dependence)

When I was younger I "hung around "with drug addicts and most of them are dead. They never saw old age. In their life time they left a trail of misery behind them.

BC POT is a narcotic and should be classified as such and regulated under the Foods and Drugs Act.

The old saying "Bullshit baffles brains" applies to the Canadian Supreme Court's recent decision on pot. They all should have smoked pot before they made that decision. The decision would have not been the same.

## Kazakoff, Laura

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2015 5:17 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: Medical Marijuana Dispensary Public Hearing Statement from the VSB  
**Attachments:** Medical Marijuana Dispensary Public Hearing Statement from the VSB.pdf

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**From:** s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2015 5:02 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Cc:** s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Subject:** Medical Marijuana Dispensary Public Hearing Statement from the VSB

To: The Mayor and Councillors of the City of Vancouver (email: [mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca](mailto:mayorandcouncil@vancouver.ca))

Following former Chairperson Christopher Richardson's presentation at a City Council Meeting on June 10, 2015, the Board, at its meeting of June 15, 2015, approved the following motion:

That the Vancouver Board of Education support the Vancouver Board of Education's presentation to the City of Vancouver dated June 11, 2015 entitled ***Medical Marijuana Dispensary Public Hearing Statement***.

Attached is a copy of the presentation.

Regards,

Rick Krowchuk  
Secretary Treasurer  
Vancouver Board of Education

**Medical Marijuana Dispensary Public Hearing Statement**  
**Vancouver School Board**  
June 11, 2015

As a partner of the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver Board of Education recognizes that the City has both the authority and the responsibility to enact measures to ensure that business is conducted appropriately in the context of health, safety and public interest. As the primary provider of education to children and youth in the city, the Board of Education has a responsibility to ensure that the safety and educational needs of those youth are taken into account whenever decisions are made that may impact them. Accordingly, the Board would be opposed to any action that could result in easier access to marijuana by children and youth, and requests that measures be put in place that would mitigate that possibility.

Although there are a variety of opinions about the impact of use of marijuana on adults, there is substantial and accepted medical evidence to indicate that use of marijuana by adolescents has significant and far-reaching harmful effects. Unfortunately, the recent proliferation of marijuana dispensaries, combined with inaccurate and harmful information available through the media, has 'normalized' the idea for many of our youth that marijuana use by youth is legal, routine, societally acceptable, and not harmful. We disagree.

In an article entitled *Adverse Health Effects of Marijuana Use* published in the New England Journal of Medicine in June 2014, a number of statements are made which clearly support the idea that marijuana use by adolescents is harmful. Among other things, the article states that:

- The regular use of marijuana during adolescence is of particular concern, since use by this age group is associated with an increased likelihood of deleterious consequences including:
  - altered brain development
  - addiction
  - poor educational outcomes, with increased likelihood of dropping out of schools
  - cognitive impairment, with lower IQ among those who were frequent users during adolescence
  - diminished life satisfaction and achievement
- Early and regular marijuana use predicts an increased risk of marijuana addiction, which in turn predicts an increased risk of other illicit drugs.
- During (adolescent) development periods, (the adolescent brain) is intrinsically more vulnerable than a mature brain to the adverse long-term effects of environmental insults, such as exposure to THC, the primary active ingredient in marijuana

In addition, an article in the Pediatrics: Official Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics entitled *The Impact of Marijuana Policies on Youth: Clinical, Research, and Legal Update* published in January 2015 indicates that:

- The potential negative consequences of short and long term recreational use of marijuana in adolescents include:
  - Impaired short term memory, decreased concentration and attention span, decreased ability to problem-solve, all of which clearly interfere with learning
- Marijuana use during adolescence is associated with reductions in the odds of high school completion and degree attainment and increases in the use of other illicit drugs and suicide attempts
- The adolescent brain, particularly the prefrontal cortex areas controlling judgment and decision making, is not fully developed until the mid 20s
- The younger an adolescent begins using drugs, including marijuana, the more likely it is that drug dependence or addiction will develop in adulthood

This information is obtained from two of the most highly regarded scientific medical journals in the medical community, providing clear evidence that marijuana use amongst adolescents is, indeed, harmful.

As a result, the Board has concerns about the recent proliferation of marijuana dispensaries that have appeared in the city over the past two years. Some of these establishments are in close proximity to schools. We do not dispute that despite the best efforts of parents, school and district staff, and the support of community partners such as the Vancouver Police Department and Vancouver Coastal Health, youth choose and are able to access marijuana in a number of ways. We strongly believe, however, that

the answer to this problem is not to set up marijuana outlets near our schools. Unless very firm boundaries are set in place and enforced strictly, we have significant concern that these outlets could easily result in an increase in marijuana use by youth in the city.

Based on these concerns, the Board has a number of requests that we would ask council to consider as they make decisions regarding the proposed amendments to city by-laws:

1. **The Board would ask that a portion of any licensing fee be designated for educational purposes and youth addiction support services.** In collaboration with and through the support of our community partner, Vancouver Coastal Health, the district provides substance abuse education programming and support for students who struggle with drug-related behaviours. The current level of support, however, is already not able to meet the growing needs in this area. We would therefore ask that if the city is going to license these establishments, that you take steps to mitigate any potential increases in youth marijuana use by providing directly funded support to youth drug awareness and addiction support programs in the city.
2. **The Board would request that whatever by-law amendments are put in place, they be enforced strictly, particularly when they are initially enacted.** Should youth discover that some rules are not being enforced, they are extremely likely to take advantage of that fact. In particular, the Board would request that bylaws regarding access by minors to the proposed establishments be strictly enforced and that consequences to establishments that do not honour this be swift and meaningful.
3. **The Board would request that the city consider increasing the distance between licensed establishments and schools from the proposed 300 metres to a distance of 500 metres.** Although we understand that 300 metres appears to be the standard in other jurisdictions such as Washington and Colorado, it would be our belief that 300 metres is a very short distance between a school and a business selling substances that are illegal and harmful for youth consumption. Any measure that can be taken to make access more difficult for youth should be strongly considered.
4. **The Board would request that advertising to minors, either directly or indirectly, be strictly prohibited in all areas in and around the business.** It is requested that a 'zone' be established around the establishments in which advertisement is prohibited.
5. **The Board would request that, despite the very recent supreme court ruling enabling sales of forms of medical marijuana other than in dried product and oils, the City consider not allowing other products such as marijuana cookies and candies to be sold.** There is evidence to suggest that these products are attractive to children and youth, who may not understand what they are ingesting when it appears to be a cookie or candy. There is also concern about the delayed effect of the drug when it is consumed through edible products and potential for overdose.
6. **It is assumed that all establishments, including those currently in existence, will be subject to any and all new rules contained in the proposed by-law amendments.**

The Board understands and appreciates that the City has the responsibility to consider the views of all citizens, many of whom will hold a variety of views on the subject of marijuana use. The Board is not making a broad statement on the use of this drug. We do, however, wish to make it very clear that use of marijuana by youth is illegal, medically harmful and very likely to create barriers to life success. We therefore ask that you carefully consider the impact of any by-law amendments on this particular group of citizens before making any decisions that will negatively impact the current youth and future adult citizens of the City of Vancouver.