



**Council Member Motion**  
**For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 8, 2025**

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** May 8, 2025  
**From:** Councillor Jeremy Caradonna and Councillor Matt Dell  
**Subject:** Reviewing Retail Cannabis Business Licensing Regulations

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**Background**

The City has regulated cannabis businesses since 2016. Its regulations include, as a condition of business licence for cannabis retailers, that there be two employees including one manager present on the premises at all times when the business is open to the public.

In January 2022, Council considered a staff report that recommended repealing the staffing regulation and other regulations contained in the Storefront Cannabis Retailer Regulation Bylaw. However, Council decided at that time to maintain the current regulations.

In October of 2022, Council adopted Bylaw 22-090, which repealed the Storefront Cannabis Retailer Regulation Bylaw, and moved the remaining two operational conditions – the staffing regulation and the regulation that windows not be covered – into section 35 of the Business Licence Bylaw.

In recent years, retail cannabis stores have struggled financially and some in the greater Victoria area have closed. The initial public safety concerns have not materialized, and the stores are generally not magnets for criminality or disorder, raising questions about the continued necessity of the “two employees” rule, which can drive up costs for small-business owners.

**Recommendation**

That staff report back on the implications of repealing section 35(1)(a) of the Business Licence Bylaw.

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Councillor Jeremy Caradonna

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Dell", written over a horizontal line.

Councillor Matt Dell