



Committee of the Whole Report

For the Meeting of May 8, 2025

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** April 15, 2025
From: Curt Kingsley, City Clerk
Subject: Recommendation for Rise Cannabis Quadra at 3198 Quadra Street

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council direct staff to advise the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB):

The Council of the City of Victoria supports the application of Rise Cannabis Quadra at 3198 Quadra Street to receive a provincial cannabis retail store license with the following comments:

- a. The Council recommends that the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch issue a license to Rise Cannabis Quadra at 3198 Quadra Street.
- b. Bylaw Services indicates the proposed cannabis retail store would have limited community impact.

The Victoria Police Department did not raise any concerns about community impacts.

- c. The reasons for a positive local government recommendation include that:
 - a. The location permits storefront cannabis retail.
 - b. Staff did not raise significant concerns about community impact due to the proposed storefront cannabis retailer at this location.
- d. Residents' views were solicited through a mail-out to property owners and occupiers within 100 meters of this address and to the relevant neighbourhood association.

The City sent 76 notices to Victoria residents, including the Hillside-Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee and 271 notices to Saanich residents.

2. That Council direct staff to advise the LCRB of Council's recommendation subject to the applicant's compliance with applicable City bylaws and permits.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Province of British Columbia is responsible for licensing cannabis retail stores. The Province refers applications to the City for a positive or negative recommendation, which must include residents' views. The *Cannabis Retail Store Licensing Consultation Policy and Fee Bylaw 18-120* establishes a public consultation process and fees.

If Council does not wish to permit further cannabis retail stores, Council may direct staff to decline any future referrals.

The applicant for this location does not currently operate cannabis retail in the City of Victoria.

The City sent 76 notices to Victoria residents, including the Hillside-Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee and 271 notices to Saanich residents.

Staff recommend Council provide a positive recommendation for Rise Cannabis Quadra at 3198 Quadra Street.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek a Council resolution regarding an application by Rise Cannabis Quadra at 3198 Quadra Street to obtain a provincial cannabis retail store license.

BACKGROUND

The Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch regulates licensing for cannabis retail store through the *Cannabis Control and Licensing Act*. To approve and issue a cannabis store licence, the LCRB must have a positive recommendation from the local government. A municipal council may delegate its powers and duties to staff to provide comments and a recommendation to the LCRB.

As a part of the recommendation, the LCRB requires that the City consider the location of the proposed cannabis retail store, provide comments about community impact, and include the views of residents. The *Cannabis Retail Store Licensing Consultation Policy and Fee Bylaw* establishes a public consultation method and fees. Owners and occupiers of parcels within 100 metres of the proposed location, and the neighbourhood association for the area, and relevant City departments may provide written comments.

A provincially licensed cannabis retail store must obtain a municipal business licence to operate in the City. The *Business Licence Bylaw* sets out licensing and operating conditions for storefront cannabis retailers. This includes requirements for visibility into the business through windows, and two employees including one manager are always present on the premises when open.

To date, Council has provided 28 positive recommendations and no negative recommendations to the Province in response to proposed cannabis retail store referrals.

ISSUES AND ANALYSIS

There is no City policy to guide staff in evaluating a referral for proposed cannabis retail store. Staff consider the applicant's compliance and enforcement history during previous and other operations as a cannabis retail store, if applicable, and input from residents.

Applicant

The applicant is proposing a cannabis retail store at 3198 Quadra Street.

The applicant passed the LCRB's "fit and proper" requirements, which is determined by using the following checks:

- criminal record check or fingerprint based criminal record verification

- police information check
- check of intelligence databases maintained by law enforcement agencies
- check of records in the justice information system of the BC Ministry of the Attorney General
- check of records in the corrections information system of the BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.

Rise Cannabis operates in other municipalities including Colwood, View Royal and Saanich.

Community Impact

At the July 20, 2023, Council meeting, Council adopted Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 1287) No. 22-086 to permit storefront cannabis retail at this location provided only one storefront cannabis retailer is permitted to operate on a single lot and the storefront cannabis retailer must not occupy more than 160m² and be located on the ground floor.

Bylaw Services and the Victoria Police Department did not raise any concerns about this referral in terms of community impacts.

Bylaw Services' comments are in Appendix 1.

Victoria Police Department's comments are in Appendix 2.

Residents' Views

The City sent 76 notices to Victoria residents within 100 metres of the proposed location, including the Hillside-Quadra Neighbourhood Action Committee. The City also sent 271 notices to Saanich residents within 100 metres of the proposed location. The proposed location is within the boundaries of Victoria but is directly adjacent to the District of Saanich.

Applicant's Response

The applicant provided a letter responding to the staff report which is attached as Appendix 3.

OPTIONS AND IMPACTS

Option 1 – Refer application with a positive local government recommendation to LCRB (Recommended)

This option would enable to LCRB to issue a provincial cannabis retail store license.

Option 2 – Refer application with a negative local government recommendation

This option would prevent the Province from issuing a license to the applicant in this location. The applicant could apply at another location.

Accessibility Impact Statement

The recommended option has no accessibility implications.

CONCLUSION

The applicant has been compliant with municipal bylaws which require a provincial and municipal license before operating a cannabis retail store business. Staff in Bylaw Services, the Victoria Police Department, and Planning and Development did not raise any concerns about community impact. A positive recommendation would allow the Province to continue the provincial licensing process.

Respectfully submitted,

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Curt Kingsley
City Clerk

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Deputy City Manager
and Chief Financial Officer

Monika Fedyczkowska
Legislation and Policy Analyst

List of Attachments

Appendix 1_Bylaw Services' Comments
Appendix 2_Victoria Police Department's Comments
Appendix 3_Applicant Letter