

Pamela Martin

From: Farmer, Shauna M. [REDACTED]
Sent: May 23, 2018 2:41 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Proposed changes to 1725 Cook St and 1040 North Park St

Hello,

Unfortunately I cannot attend the public hearing tomorrow but wanted to offer my voice in regards to these two proposed changes nonetheless.

I have lived in the neighbourhood for 6 years and neither of these two businesses have ever been problematic for me or my family. They have always abided by the regulations asked of them by the city and I don't see a problem with their continued operation. As for the zoning change from a commercial-residential to a cannabis zone - again, I do not see an issue with this whatsoever. It's quite likely the nearby business are getting more patrons as a result of the dispensaries being located in the neighbourhood. Overall, the block is shaping up rather nicely.

One thing that had me chuckling to myself a little bit is the name of the new district type – Upper Cook (Cannabis) District. It's still commercial-residential as there are other units in that lot.

Thanks for offering the opportunity to be heard,
Shauna Farmer
7 – 1870 Cook Street.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Ocean Grown Medicinal Society Dispensary. My name is Daniel Vokey, and I am the owner of a neighbouring business - Patisserie Daniel. I have been in business, at my Cook street location, for nearly twenty-five years. Because of this, I know the Cook street community well, and have seen how many businesses have operated in this area, and their effects upon the community.

Ocean Grown has been an asset to this community in a number of ways, from providing free meals to the disadvantaged to simply offering a valuable service. Ocean Grown is well run. In all my years operating on Cook, I have never had a problem with them or because of them. Many of my own customers have patronized them, and many of their customers have visited my Patisserie. Ocean Grown's customer base is composed of people from all walks of life, and with myriad needs and values.

On a personal level, I would also like to emphasize the value of the service they provide. My fourteen year-old son was recently diagnosed with Leukemia. His road to recovery is, and will continue to be, a difficult and taxing one. Amongst many other medications he has received, while under the care of BC Children's Hospital, he has relied upon some derived from cannabis. Without this medicine, his recovery would be that much more difficult to endure. I know, from experience, that safe access to cannabis products is a serious, medical issue. Many people's well-being depends upon it.

Not everyone has the safe access that my son does, and any decision that might jeopardize people's health should be taken very seriously. Ocean Grown has been operated professionally, securely, and as a local business owner and part of the Cook street community, I feel it is important to clarify that they have only been a positive, and necessary, presence.

Sincerely,

Daniel Vokey

[REDACTED]

Dr. Dave Hepburn

3436 Pattison Way
Victoria, BC
V9C 4K8


February 13, 2018

To whom it may concern:

I wish to add my name to those who see the professional manner in which Ocean Grown has conducted themselves as a dispensary over the years. As one of Canada's foremost physician educators in the world of medical cannabis, Ocean Grown has been the dispensary that I have suggested patients go to should they prefer dispensary as a means of obtaining cannabis for medical purposes.

I have been reticent to send older, legitimate patients to facilities that are more recreational in their demeanor. I have expressed that "you shouldn't have to pay homage to Bob Marley to obtain something to treat migraines." I believe that this does nothing but vilify the existing stigma that exists and serves to do nothing but sabotage the potential that medical cannabinoids have demonstrated.

Ocean Grown remains the only dispensary that I recommend (now that I am retired) to all who ask.

Please feel free to contact me if need to discuss further.

Sincerely

David Hepburn, MD

Dear Council Members and Mayor

I am writing this letter in support of Ocean Grown Medicinal Society

I have been going to Ocean Grown since day one

They have proven themselves to be extremely knowledgeable friendly and have helped me with my three chronic conditions (western medicine has only masked my conditions and systems)

Shutting them down would be a disaster not only for myself but for many other members

I rely greatly upon this establishment for my medicine and also for the education that the employees give to the members based on their individual conditions and concerns

There are liquor stores beside each other there are liquor establishments next to each other - why is this allowed but not with medicinal establishments which have proven to help heal and cure many of our citizens?

There needs to be NO cap on any amount of dispensaries in the city or outside of the city

They should be as common as a regular pharmacy

Perhaps it's time for those in Council and for the mayor to really do their research with this plant and benefits it has not only to treat chronic conditions and elements but to treat society as a whole it's time for the fear monger to be put at rest and time for the truth to come out there are studies upon studies improve upon proof everywhere else in this world and yet here in Canada we are not being exposed to these facts why is that?

I stand and support Ocean Grown Society without them I would not be in the improved condition I am in

Please feel free to contact me for any further information or questions that you may want answered I would be more than happy to give you my story and my experiences

Thank you

Grace

P.S

Please do not take away a wonderful society that is here to help and heal the citizens of Victoria BC

February 12, 2018

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to express my appreciation for the services that I have received from Ocean Grown Medicinal Society (Ocean). I am a 60 year old female and I have been using their services for approximately four years after I was referred by my physician. I do not want to take prescription arthritis medication and find one of their topical creams works wonders to reduce the swelling in my joints.



I, also, use a very small amount of the edible product so I am able to take the dog for a long walk. The best remedy for arthritis is to maintain movement and the ingredient CBD does allow me to experience less pain so I can move.

My late husband also benefitted by the use of marijuana to reduce his nausea while undergoing a number of rounds of chemo/radiation therapy. It would have been so helpful to have the services of the Ocean staff to guide us to the correct product. Unfortunately we were at the mercy of friends and family who provided "pot cookies" with unknown amounts of CBD and THC. And we would have appreciated the counselling and support regarding Ocean's available products.

I have found the staff to be very informed about their products and to be able to recommend a myriad of products for various complaints. More recently I was able to enjoy the benefits of the bath bombs which are very relaxing and significantly reduce my pain levels on bad days.

I am compelled to write this letter of support as I firmly believe Ocean offer a good medical alternative. I appreciate not sneaking around feeling like a second class citizen trying to "score" a joint from dubious characters. Instead we now have the option to walk into a nice bright office space, greeted with a smile and a professional attitude. I hope we do not recess back into a draconian attitude and continue to explore the healing qualities of plants.

Respectfully,


Jayn Tyson 

February. 12th, 2018

To Whom it May Concern,

I became a member at Ocean Grown Medicinal Society last September, and I am absolutely enthralled with the welcoming atmosphere and knowledgeable staff. When you walk through the front doors it feels as if you've entered a sanctuary- a safe haven to pick up your medicine. Unlike going to a traditional drugstore with beaming fluorescent lights and constant beeping noises as items are scanned through the checkouts, this is a calm space. The waiting room has plenty of seating, art on the walls and an impressively large fish tank with beautiful tropical fish. It is very clean, secure and inviting. After being identified as a member you are then lead into a secure room with a menu and products displayed in a glass case, on shelves and in a large fridge. The "Budtenders" will gladly answer any questions and offer suggestions catered to your needs. You're allowed to smell and examine the many selections of "flower" in the glass jars, which are labeled with brief descriptions in regards to the strain.

My favourite day to visit Ocean Grown is on Sundays, I have also come to realize that Sunday is "Seniors Day" at the dispensary, anyone who is a veteran or senior receives a discount. The seniors/veterans seem to feel very comfortable at this dispensary and have most likely been patients there for years, it would be unfortunate if they were forced to go sign up somewhere new. For some people their habitual routine is critical for their mental health, when they finally feel comfortable buying their medicine at a certain place it can create unnecessary stress when they have to start over someplace new.

From what I can understand is that Ocean Grown Medicinal has been the only location of it's kind in Victoria for several years, therefore in my opinion should not be competing against another dispensary that has multiple locations. If it comes down to deciding which dispensary is going to remain in that area I support Ocean Grown because of the excellent service they have provided to me and fellow members of the community. It would not be the same if I couldn't enjoy walking over to my beloved neighborhood dispensary to pick up my medicine

Sincerely,
Anna

To whom it may concern

I am writing a letter of support for the Ocean Growing Medical Society as they apply for a business license. This society has been involved with our community and city since its conception. For example they have financially donated to the Dandelion Society for the past five years. They have attended community gatherings and have stayed abreast around our cities politics and growth.

I therefore support the societies application for a business license

rev Allen Tysick

Executive Director of the Dandelion Society

[REDACTED]