

MAYOR'S OFFICE

OCT 06 2017

VICTORIA, B.C.

2 October 2017

The Honorable Mayor Lisa Helps
Honorable Members of the Council
City of Victoria
1 Centennial Square
V8W 1P6

Dear Mayor Helps,

First, I want to commend you for your leadership in developing bicycle lanes in Victoria. As the population density and traffic congestion increase, bicycle and public transportation will become even more important for living in the city. Although bicycle lanes seem to have become a contentious topic for automobile drivers, I hope that will pass with more experience. I believe that the city leaders who support this effort are on the right side of history. I thank you.

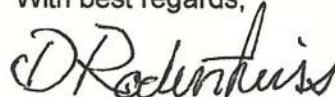
I am writing today because of a growing concern for cannabis retailing in the city. I'm sure you would agree that these retailers are an additional threat to the stability of the downtown retailing area that is already burdened by homelessness and the effects of drugs and mental illness. Cannabis retailing makes this worse, not better; it is going in the wrong direction.

In this regard, I am writing to call your attention to the situation on the 1400 block of Douglas Street. It is my understanding that cannabis retailing and the lust for those illusionary profits are displacing some established business; eg, the *Taste of Europe Deli* at 1412 Douglas.

Although leasing arrangements is a matter of business decision, the municipality has a responsibility to monitor and guide the development of commerce, especially in the city center. Moreover, the choices that you make will affect all of us who live in the metropolitan area. We all have some skin in this game, and I have strong objections to the development of cannabis retailing in the city centre.

I would be grateful if you would investigate this situation on Douglas Street and send me a report of your judgment in this matter.

With best regards,



David Rodenhuis