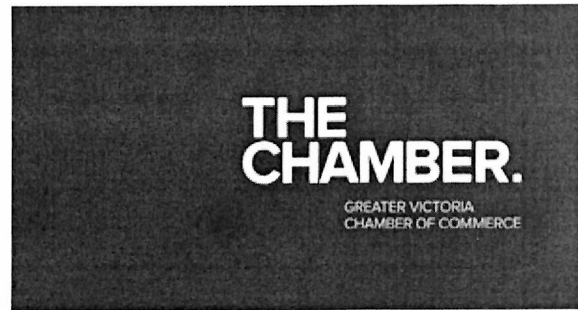


Appendix F

100-852 Fort St. Victoria British Columbia V8W 1H8
Phone: 250-383-7191 Fax: 250-385-3552 www.victoriachamber.ca



October 18, 2019

Mayor Lisa Helps and Council,
and Legislative Services Department
City of Victoria –1 Centennial Square
Victoria, B.C. V8W 1PG

Re. Provincial license application for Kiaro, cannabis retail store at 475 Gorge Rd. E.

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce supports the approval of a provincial license application for Kiaro, a cannabis retail store at 475 Gorge Rd. E.

Kiario is a member in good standing of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce. Kiario is a BC company that plans to take a community-minded, full-service approach focusing on social responsibility and exceptional retail experience.

The property at 475 Gorge Rd. E. is zoned for cannabis retail use, and Kiario is in the process of fulfilling necessary provincial requirements.

At the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, we work on behalf of business and advocate for regulations and policies that improve the economic vitality of our region's entrepreneurs, employers and citizens. We have taken an active and forward-focused role in working together with the emerging legal cannabis industry to establish good businesses that contribute to our great community.

Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Holt".

Catherine Holt
Chief Executive Officer
Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce

Pierre-Paul Angelblazer

From: Deirdre Lott <[REDACTED]>
Sent: October 21, 2019 3:42 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Cc: richardg lott; meganelena lott
Subject: Provincial License Application for Cannabis Retail Store, 475 Gorge Rd E

To whom it may concern;

We wish to express our vigorous opposition to the Provincial License Application for a Cannabis retail store at 475 Gorge Road East, Victoria, BC as described in City of Victoria letter dated October 11, 2019.

Regardless of present zoning, we consider that this mixed use residential neighbourhood risks having more cannabis retail stores than is required. We oppose a concentration of retail stores focussing on cannabis products. The neighbourhood would be better served with mixed retail stores offering a wider variety of non-cannabis products, goods and services to the community.

If the City is unsuccessful in limiting the Provincial License Application we ask that any new cannabis retail store license be only awarded conditionally with a clear understanding that a comprehensive review of neighbourhood social impacts be assessed within a year. Enforcement of access to cannabis products by the many minors living and playing in the immediate neighbourhood, any changes to pedestrian and vehicular traffic (eg. parking), effects on the existing businesses and general changes will require assessment. The Tim Horton's across the street voluntarily shortened it's hours of business in May 2017 in response to neighbourhood and law enforcement pressure to avoid risk to citizens and property.

The current established residential uses adjacent to 475 Gorge Road East must be respected by the Province and the City in view of the urgent need for more, not less family friendly housing in the City of Victoria.

Yours sincerely, Deirdre and Richard Lott (property owners) Megan Lott (resident)

545 Manchester Rd, Victoria, BC

Sent from [Outlook](#)

Pierre-Paul Angelblazer

From: Jordan Stout <[REDACTED]>
Sent: October 24, 2019 5:10 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: In support of Kiaro (475 Gorge Road E, Victoria)

Hello,

I am writing you from the second floor of 2725 Rock Bay Avenue in support of Kiaro's application for a cannabis retail store at 475 Gorge Road E.

As an integral member of the Rock Bay business community (and lead creative coordinator of rock-bay.ca), I'm excited at the opportunity to welcome an industry leader like Kiaro into the neighbourhood. I have full confidence in Andrew and his teams' brand vision and community spirit in relation to this application.

If you'd like to contact me for any further insight into this application, I'm happy to share my opinions as needed,

Jordan

--

Jordan Stout

Project Manager • The Number

[REDACTED]
Work People Value

Pierre-Paul Angelblazer

From: Kevin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: October 24, 2019 6:05 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Requested Feedback: Kiara Cannabis Application

Thank you for considering our opinions regarding the cannabis retail application at 475 Gorge Rd E.

For some time now, the city of Victoria appears to have had an agenda of relocating the homeless and lowest income segments from the more visible downtown area to this neighbourhood. This has resulted in increased incidences of crime in my neighbourhood and I have personally had to call police for others' safety.

We all know that these populations have a much larger than average presence of drug and mental health issues. I believe that access to drugs - even legal - within such close proximity will serve only to perpetuate their problems as well as the resultant crime and aggressive behaviour. It would be, in effect, adding fuel to the fire.

I urge the city to grant applications in higher income areas where our most vulnerable don't have such easy access. These neighbourhoods won't be as susceptible to its potentially negative effects. Our neighbourhood has taken more than our share.

Thank you,
Kevin R Jones.
520 Dunedin St

PS: I'd like to request that my email address remain private.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in hopes of stopping the application submitted by Kiaro to allow a cannabis retail store to open @ 475 Gorge Road E.

I live at 535 Manchester Rd and am very concerned for my safety as the area already has its challenges. I have come home to people shooting up or smoking marijuana on the stairwell where I live and leaving their garbage behind. [REDACTED] and have found people using drugs in their parking lot or in their stairwell as well. I moved from North Vancouver to Victoria almost 2 years ago and still will not walk alone at night whereas in North Vancouver I never had that fear. The Tim Hortons up the street from me seems to be full of people looking for drugs, selling drugs, using drugs and have also witnessed prostitutes picking up clients or doing business right there in the parking lot. Allowing this facility to open in my opinion would be very detrimental to the area and fear things would only get worse. This area needs to be revitalized by making it more community friendly attracting both families and singles who can feel safe in the area. I believe this type of facility does not bring value to this neighbourhood and should look for another location elsewhere. I am not against these types of facilities opening now that cannabis has been legalized, however I would like to feel safe in my neighbourhood and would rather support businesses that contribute to improving the area and promoting a safe environment for all who live in the area.

Sincerely,

Lorelei

535 Manchester Rd Victoria BC V8T 5J1

I have left my unit number blank as I do not wish it to be published. My phone number is [REDACTED] but also wish to have it kept confidential. I have not listed my last name for the same reason.

Pierre-Paul Angelblazer

From: DAVID AND MARY <[REDACTED]>
Sent: October 16, 2019 10:14 AM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: 475 Gorge Rd. E

I'm contacting you with my input re another cannabis store on Gorge Road. We already have **Clarity Cannabis** at 603 Gorge Rd. E. which is about 2 blocks away from the site for the proposed store. I have noticed that the parking lot for **Clarity Cannabis** is busy at certain times, for example Friday afternoon. Having the cannabis stores so close together can give the impression that this area is the place to shop for a good variety of dope.

I don't think it is a good idea to have the stores so close together.

Regards

M. Day

Pierre-Paul Angelblazer

From: Mike Waddington <[REDACTED]>
Sent: October 18, 2019 11:51 AM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Zoning application

Hello,
I strongly agree to licensing retail marijuana at 475 Gorge road E.
Thanks for your time.

Mike Waddington
[REDACTED]
216-535 Manchester rd.
V8T5J1

Pierre-Paul Angelblazer

From: Sandra Radford [REDACTED]
Sent: October 24, 2019 7:31 PM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Application for cannabis retail store at 475 Gorge Road E.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit my comments regarding the provincial license application for a cannabis retail store at 475 Gorge Road E.

I live in a condo one block away from 475 Gorge Road E., and strongly object to yet another social burden placed in a neighbourhood struggling with some of the most serious social ills and challenges.

The Burnside/Gorge neighbourhood is already stressed with family homelessness and inadequate housing, poverty, crime, and drug overdose. On my street is a half-way house run by the John Howard society; within a few blocks there is Rock Bay Landing on Ellice Street. There is a growing presence of homeless people in our neighbourhood, and an alarming increase in drug addicts and crime. The last thing we need is a magnet for more addicts, drawn to our neighbourhood by a cannabis outlet, with attendant opportunities to find other drugs.

There are families with young children living in my building. The children like to play on the lawn, and I see them making chalk drawings on the paths, or playing with their small dog. They should be able to do these things without finding drug paraphernalia left by addicts, or excrement left by homeless people who try to camp out on the green spaces around our building.

In an effort to try to stop trespassing people from engaging in prostitution, taking drugs, or camping out on our property, we have spent tens of thousands of dollars installing a tall metal fence. We have spent further thousands upgrading our security with cameras at the entrances to our building. Addicts are entering our building and stealing whatever they can to fund their drug habits. Residents in my building can attest to finding thieves in our building; the Victoria Police Department can verify that this is happening on an ongoing basis.

What possible social benefit could accrue from placing a recreational drug dispensary in a neighbourhood already struggling with some of our most difficult social challenges? We all need to share the responsibility of solving our collective problems, and we all need to share what that means on the ground. What it does not mean is putting yet another social negative in the same overburdened neighbourhood.

People who makes decisions regarding other people's neighbourhoods need to stop and consider fairness. Why is our neighbourhood, already disproportionately burdened as it is with the challenges of poverty, drug abuse, food and housing insecurity, crime, and homelessness, asked to accommodate a business of dubious benefit to those of us who live here? Why not place such a business in Oak Bay Village, Estevan Village, Cook Street Village, or in Fernwood? Possibly these are the neighbourhoods the decision makers return to in the evening. Residents of Burnside/Gorge would like other neighbourhoods to share some of the burden.

Please seriously consider my letter, and deny the application.

Yours sincerely,

S. Radford
304-545 Manchester Road
Victoria, BC V8T 5H6

Please keep my email address confidential.

Pierre-Paul Angelblazer

From: Yuki Yu [REDACTED]
Sent: October 25, 2019 10:47 AM
To: Legislative Services email
Subject: Provincial License Application for a cannabis retail store ---475 Gorge Road E

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To whom it may concern,

I got a letter from the City of Victoria to ask the opinion about the above-mentioned application. I live at 535 Manchester Rd which is pretty close to that location. As far as I know, there is a shelter for homeless people close by and Selkirk Montessori School is nearby as well.

I don't agree with the city issue the license to that cannabis store. As a 7-year girl's mom, I am really concerned about the safety environment for my kid. We do have many weird people wandering around on George Road especially during the nighttime. If a cannabis store is reopened at that location, it will bring more safety issues in this area.

This is my main concern. I wish the City could think twice to issue the license. There are still lots of people who don't smoke pot at all. Based on the reach from Google, there are about 16 cannabis stores in the Great Victoria area and most of them located downtown. It's not necessary to open another one pretty close to those stores.

Thank you for reading my email. Let me know if you have any questions. Have a good day~

Sincerely,
Ying Yu