

Madison Heiser

From: Alex Gunderson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: 1150 Douglas Street: Rezoning Application No. 00748

Mayor, Councillors, and an exciting warm welcome to Stephen Andrew!

I am a retired Cannabis Industry innovator. There are already **more than enough** cannabis stores in the downtown core (as shown by the map made by city staff). The approval of another store within the radius will only show one more reason why so many people voted for Stephen Andrew. He stands up for small businesses. We need a business that will bring people downtown, A cannabis store will not do that as there are already enough stores to service everyone in the area already. By adding another store within the buffer of which there are already too many stores as you know, you will be directly taking food off of plates of existing cannabis shops, if you do not understand how this works I will break it down in simple math:

1000 Cannabis Customers , 10 Stores = 100 Customers per store
1000 Cannabis Customers , 11 Stores = 90 Customers per store

With the way the government has laid out high prices and low margins for retail cannabis, this could be an entire store's profit. There are already "four properties within 400m of the property that have storefront cannabis retailer as a permitted use."- City Staff

How does it logically make sense rather than asking retailers to spread out around the city?

I do not want yet another store in my neighborhood especially if it puts a damper on local entrepreneurs.

In conclusion, I am against this store application as well as any other applications within the buffer zone of other stores within the city, its time the government starts playing fair.

Respectfully,

Alex D. Gunderson

Gold Experience International Inc.
GEI Inc.

DOWNTOWN Victoria

Downtown Victoria Business Association
20 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
V8W 1P7

January 13, 2021

Victoria Mayor & Council
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC
V8W 1P6

Re: Support for Songhees Nation

Dear Mayor & Council,


I am writing on behalf of the Downtown Victoria Business Association to support the Songhees Nation's rezoning requests regarding 901 Gordon Street and the unit they plan to rent within 1150 Douglas Street (The Bay Centre). We welcome this significant investment in downtown, particularly as the nation plans to sign stable, long-term leases.

Despite a system that has, historically, made it difficult for First Nations to experience economic growth, Songhees Nation has worked hard to establish both a commercial and a cultural presence in their traditional territory. They are valuable contributors to the economy and valuable partners to many different groups both within the downtown and throughout the broader region.

Their existing business initiatives (such as the Songhees Centre and the Songhees Food Truck) have already added a richness to downtown Victoria. This is partially through their economic contribution, but even more significantly through their cultural presence. The field of experiential Indigenous tourism is growing rapidly, and the Songhees Nation has plans to further expand their programs once it is safe to do so. They intend to offer cultural canoe tours in the Inner Harbour, walking tours which will encompass key points of interest downtown and the Signs of Lekwungen public art installations, and other cultural programming. These two cannabis businesses will play a role in that cultural presence as well as contributing to the local economy.

The DVBA is very pleased by the increased cultural and economic presence of Songhees Nation within its traditional territory, and urges the council to please allow the rezoning requests to be completed.

Sincerely,



Jeff Bray
DVBA Executive Director

Madison Heiser

From: Vafa Javanmardi [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 3:12 PM
To: Public Hearings
Cc: Vafa Javanmardi
Subject: Opposing Amendment Bylaw (No.8) No. 20-125

To: Mayor & Council

Subject: Opposing Amendment Bylaw (No.8) No. 20-125 Storefront Cannabis Retailer on land 1150 Douglas St, 600-670 Fort St, 1125-1199 Government St

Dear Mayor & Council,

I am writing to **oppose** this amendment in the strongest way possible. I am a taxpayer living in Victoria for almost 20 years and working a block from the proposed cannabis store. Legalizing Recreational Cannabis was a BIG mistake by the Federal & Provincial governments. It was even a bigger mistake by City of Victoria to encourage and establish dozens of pot shops across this tiny town to the detriment of the younger generation and its citizens. This drug is a poison to the health of our youth and able-bodied citizens. STOP making Victoria the Pot Capital of Canada. I see every day what carnage it brings to areas where these pot shops thrive, and am sure that they sell illegal drugs from their back doors & "members only" rooms. Adding another 2 pot shops in the downtown core will further destroy our beautiful city and will attract more drug dealers, crime, theft, and make the downtown more dangerous to the local families and tourists that visit our town. This will also drive away businesses and make entire blocks of the city as "No go" areas. The surrounding businesses will also suffer dramatically. There is absolutely no justification to increase the number of pot shops in town. Improve the downtown core by bringing in family oriented businesses; health & recreation, cafes, daycares, educational institutions, and museums & galleries. A Cannabis store only destroys society and our younger generations. Medicinal Cannabis should be purchased from local Pharmacies like every other medicine.

I expect that you will make the right decision to reject this project and look after the welfare of all the citizens of Victoria, and not increase its crime rate.

Respectfully,

Vafa Javanmardi



Vafa Javanmardi (Mech. Eng)
General Manager / Managing Broker
Harbour Centre
36 – 910 Government St.
Victoria, BC, V8W 1X3



This message, including any attachments, is privileged and may contain confidential information intended only for the person(s) named above. Any other distribution, copying or disclosure is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify us immediately and permanently delete the original transmission from us, including any attachments, without reading or making a copy of it. As email can be changed electronically, Tillyard assumes no responsibility for any alteration to this email or its attachments. Tillyard has taken every reasonable precaution to ensure that any attachment to this email has been swept for viruses. However, Tillyard does not accept any liability for damage sustained as a result of such attachment being virus infected.

Madison Heiser

From: Allen Spillette [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 11:50 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Public Hearing - 1150 Douglas Street, 600-670 Fort Street, 1125-1199 Government Street, and 647-655 View Street:

Importance: High

Hello Mayor and Council,

My name is Allen Spillette and I'm an owner of The Original Farm. I'm writing this email to strongly oppose this application. The location is too close to other cannabis retailers and clustering cannabis stores in the downtown core isn't a solution for economic recovery. Our revenue at 1402 Douglas street has been hit very hard (close to 40%) by Covid-19 and adding a BC Cannabis store within the buffer zone would be crushing. I'm a huge advocate for small business, but this can not be said for BC Cannabis stores which is essentially a provincially run monopoly. BC Cannabis stores have proven to be crushing for other small cannabis business owners in other communities and it would be very discouraging to see Victoria bend the rules to allow them to enter.

I truly understand that we need to help small business downtown. We need find creative ways to pull ourselves out of this hole Covid-19 has put small business in, but a government run cannabis store is surely not the solution.

Thanks,

Allen Spillette
Co-Founder

The Original FARM
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

THE ORIGINAL
FARM

Madison Heiser

From: Victoria Mayor and Council
Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Fw: Cannabis stores

From: Kenneth Mintz [REDACTED]
Sent: January 13, 2021 7:49 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council <mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca>
Subject: Cannabis stores

Dear Mayor and Council,

I am disappointed that, once again, Council is about to approve rezoning another two locations for cannabis sales. one of them being the Bay Centre.

Downtown Victoria is already saturated with cannabis stores - we do not need another. Allowing cannabis to be sold in our main mall is utter foolishness. I frequently smell cannabis on our downtown streets, what happened to our Clean Air Bylaw?

After the pandemic is over, the tourist industry needs to be re-established. Victoria needs to be seen as a clean, safe city, as it used to be, which would make tourists want to spend more time here. Unfortunately, Council seems to be pursuing the opposite course. With the present situation in the USA, Victoria has a golden opportunity to be an attractive destination for Americans.

You should keep in mind that many scientific studies have determined that cannabis smoke (as well as vaping) is harmful. Do you want to be known 20 years from now, when the long-term effects of cannabis become obvious to everyone, that your Council was one that essentially promoted the sale of cannabis?

Kenneth Mintz

703-399 Tyee Rd., Victoria