

Lacey Maxwell

From: Alex Robb [REDACTED]
Sent: January 30, 2018 6:22 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: COTW meeting on 2610 Rock Bay TUP application for retail cannabis

Dear Mayor Helps and Members of the Victoria City Council,

I am writing today to provide an update on Trees Dispensary's Temporary Use Permit with Variance Application No. 00005 for the property located at 2610 Rock Bay Avenue that will be discussed by the Committee of the Whole meeting on Thursday morning.

The reason I changed the application to a Temporary Use Permit from a Rezoning application was because our new landlord informed us that we would be required to vacate while he retrofits the building, and we did not have a secure lease. We wanted to provide ourselves with time to find a new location in the vicinity to continue to serve our members, or to negotiate a new lease with our existing landlord.

As you may know, there has been a medical cannabis storefront at this location under different names since 2011. We have a dedicated member base in the neighbourhood and over the years we have offered many harm reduction services in this area, including educational workshops for street-involved people on everything from medical cannabis, to aromatherapy, art therapy, and yoga. We have also made our space available to the Peers Victoria Resources Society to use as a monthly workshop space for their clients.

We have developed a good relationship with our landlord and have now reached a compromise with him. He will move forward with the retrofit of the 2610 Rock Bay building as planned, but he has agreed to offer us a lease right next door at [2620 Rock Bay](#), which he also recently purchased.

Some renovations will need to be undertaken to make that space suitable for a medical cannabis storefront, and our rezoning application will still take another few months to complete. We would like to move forward with this public hearing for a Temporary Use Permit for 2610 Rock Bay to continue our business for a short period while we prepare the move, and so that we can 'hold our place' in the neighbourhood in order to apply to rezone the property next door. If this TUP for 2610 Rock Bay is granted, then when the 2620 Rock Bay building is ready, our landlord has agreed to request the city to 'down-zone' 2610 Rock Bay to allow for the permanent rezoning for the use of cannabis retail at 2620 Rock Bay Avenue.

The reason for this is because we have been established in the area for a long time, and since we did technically submit our rezoning application before any other business in the neighbourhood (our original rezoning application was submitted on October 20, 2016, but complications regarding negotiations with the landlord and parking issues meant that we had to put it on hold, there will be no parking variances required at the 2620 Rock Bay location as it has a sizable parking lot already).

Many thanks, I look forward to the meeting on Thursday.
All best wishes,

Alex

p.s. I have also included a copy of petitions from some of our members to allow us to stay in the area. You can view the petition [here](#).