



November 4, 2016

City of Victoria
Mayor and Council
1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC V8W 1P6

**STOREFRONT CANNABIS RETAILER REZONING APPLICATION
LOT B, PLAN 47830, VICTORIA SUBURBAN LOT 18
1 - 1725 COOK STREET**

Please accept this letter as an application for the rezoning of the cannabis retail storefront **Ocean Grown Medicinal Society (OGMS)** located at 1-1725 Cook Street in Fernwood.

Description of Proposal:

OGMS is a proven addition to the neighbourhood and is currently operating within the guidelines outlined under the Sustainable Planning and Community Development department. OGMS conforms to the storefront cannabis retailer policy. The business is over 500 m from any schools and there are no known licenced retailers within 200 m of the storefront.

City Policy:

OGMS is the only cannabis retailer on the property. There are 11 off street parking stalls available, as well as a bike rack available. A large proportion of the member base, bike and use public transit to access OGMS, reducing the environmental impact to the entire community and improving individual wellness.

Project Benefit and Amenities:

There are currently over 3800 members of OGMS bringing economic benefits to the surrounding businesses. The members enjoy a sense of community through many of the sponsored events including: An annual Customer Appreciation BBQ, annual Christmas Dinner, and regular Food and Clothing Drives. Ocean Grown Medicinal Society participates in charitable drives for neighbourhood associations, and proceeds from the in house ATM are donated to the Dandelion Society of Victoria.

This fostering of community results in overall improved mental and physical health to the individual member, the Fernwood neighbourhood and the City as a whole.

**Impacts:**

Neighbouring businesses are consulted and included in member community events. The traffic to OGMS is regular within the hours of operation and complements the existing surrounding businesses.

Design and Development and Heritage:

The building is existing and does not have heritage status. No exterior improvements are proposed; therefore, design guidelines do not apply. The design and décor of OGMS, however, is modern, tasteful and has been praised by members online and in person.

Safety and Security:

OGMS has one main accessible public entry, and the facility is well lit with clean lines and a bright welcoming feel. The security devices and barriers within OGMS are best case and proven, including surveillance cameras, an alarm system and panic buttons. The neighbouring businesses have clear sightlines and a good rapport in order to work as a community to prevent inappropriate activities and enhance public safety.

Transportation:

As outlined above the vehicle and bicycle parking of OGMS meet the standards of Schedule C. The off-street parking surrounding the corner lot is also ample.

Thank you for accepting this application. We trust the information provided herein is sufficient to process the rezoning application. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact us at the City's convenience.

Yours truly,

Ocean Grown Medicinal Society

Dianna Bridge
Director

Enclosures