


## A Letter to Mayor and Council

September 27th, 2017

The Pineapple Express Cannabis Dispensary opened its doors on November 27th, 2015. Right from the very beginning, our focus has been to provide clean, safe, local medicinal cannabis products to our patients, at very affordable prices. Pineapple Express is located at 608 Esquimalt Road, in Victoria West. Setting up shop in Vic West has been a very positive experience for everyone involved, and we have gained tremendous support from the community in which we are established. Victoria West, bordering Esquimalt is a very different environment from the downtown Victoria area, where most of the other cannabis retailers are located. Many of our patients are of a lower income bracket, and that is why one of our main focuses has been to make sure to provide a wide variety of products from which everyone can receive a benefit, especially those less fortunate. We have brought specific attention to the CBD products and medicinal oils, keeping the cost very low to provide relief from inflammation, seizures and mood disorders, and THC products to provide relief from Pain and sleeping disorders. The team of Pineapple Express has grown, along with our customer base, and we now have 12 employees. We believe strongly in equal opportunity for employment and hiring locally and so have an equal team of 6 men and 6 women ranging from the ages of 24 to nearly 40, all of whom live in the Victoria area. Supporting the local community is just as important to us as well, and so we have developed positive relationships with many of the businesses in our neighbourhood, and help them advertise with business cards and our "Community Bulletin Board". We are a progressive employer with a starting wage of \$15 per hour after an initial 90 day probationary period. Health is also very important to our family, and so we provide medical and dental benefits for all of our employees. We have also been fortunate enough to add a few employees who have studied Cannabis at the post-secondary level to our team. Pineapple Express has worked with local testing companies to ensure the products we sell are safe, and of a high quality, and we are in the process of establishing a system where all of our products are tested for community safety, educational information and to increase awareness. In addition to rezoning, we are also seeking a parking variance for Pineapple Express. The dispensary shares a parking lot with the automotive shop, and though it has taken time to learn the flow of traffic, we both believe the available space is suitable for the area. We have 4 of the 5 required parking spaces for both businesses, however that does not include all of the parking inside the auto shop. Our store faces a main arterial road and we are very near multiple bus routes from every direction. A large percentage of our customer base is walking traffic, and we also have a bike rack for all of the customers that cycle to the shop via Esquimalt road and the many bike paths in the area, principally the Galloping Goose. The automotive shop now has access to off site lot parking for its salable cars, rendering their spots vacant throughout most of the day and making all of our spaces available for temporary customer parking. I have dealt with the city directly on this matter, and as there seems to be no safety concerns, or logistical issues, we hope that you will approve our Variance. My Partner Aaron and I, wanted to establish this company as a couple young entrepreneurs seeking to represent dispensaries in a positive light, knowing that we could build a business that helps the community, provides quality products, and can be affordable in

an area of lower means. From the moment that the city council started enforcing regulations, we have been proactive with full compliance. We have done everything that has been requested of us immediately i.e. the changing of our operating hours, removal of our sandwich board, removal of our logo from the signage and much more. We are an incorporated and tax paying company that is up to date on all GST and corporate taxes. We also have absolutely no criminal connections and no history of criminal activity and wanted to establish everything so as to move in a direction of legalization because we believe dispensaries are the way of the future for Canada, and we also believe that they should be represented in a beautiful manner. We love the community, the employees, the patients and this country and are proud to be here at the beginning of a beautiful change for Canada.

Pat Warren

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Pat Warren', with a large, sweeping loop at the end.