

Lacey Maxwell

From: RICHARD WHITWELL [REDACTED]
Sent: August 6, 2017 12:22 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Medical marijuana dispensaries

Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to speak on the issue of the licensing of the Cannabis Buyers Club.

I am a 67 year old man diagnosed with gran mall seizure disorder; hepatitis C; osteoarthritis; IBS and sleep disorder. I required a bevy of chemical medications for years since marijuana was still very illegal and the sources often questionable; yet cannabis proved amazingly effective for most of these conditions. Nearly twenty years ago a friend showed me Ted Smiths business card for the Cannabis Buyers Club. It was in its early days, and located in his upper suite on Johnson a few blocks from its current location. Ted was the front runner in the battle for decriminalization and legalization of medical cannabis and wore the brunt of it all. His courage, dedication to educating the public and never ending advocacy for our benefit while enduring the legal, financial and political burdens forced upon him establish him as a true hero to most of us.

The Club established its own reputation long ago as a caring and very reliable source of a diversity of high quality medicine with(I believe) the the best knowledge base of any Club in Canada. They remain the longest existing of these in Canada as well. It has been given recognition by the city for many years, and deservedly so.

In my opinion, to deny licensing to the Cannabis Buyers Club would be a travesty. If anything, I would expect them to be given the highest priority of all applicants and even to be used by the city as an example for all other clubs.

Thank you for allowing my opinions, and if possible I would like my appeal read into the hearings. I cannot attend since I am needed in Ontario on urgent family matters.

Sincerely
Richard Whitwell
#192

Sent from my iPad

Lacey Maxwell

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: August 9, 2017 4:01 PM
To: Lisa Helps (Mayor)
Subject: Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club Rezoning Application
Attachments: VCBC Mayor.doc

To the Mayor of Victoria,

I hope this letter finds you well. Thank you for your time in reading it.

My name is Sebastian Campbell. I am writing you because I recently learned that the rezoning application for the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club is due for consideration by the city, and that the continued existence of the club may therefore be uncertain. I would like to share my experience as a member of the Club for the last three and a half years, in the hope that it might serve as an illustration of the positive force they represent in the community, and their continued worthiness to remain a part of it.

Five years ago, through no fault of my own, I was struck by a vehicle while cycling home from the University of Victoria. During the collision, I sustained a brain injury, and soon after developed PTSD. In my efforts to cope with and heal from these injuries, it became apparent that the medicinal use of cannabis offered the greatest benefits, with the least amount of side effects. In pursuit of a reliable source of quality medicine, I joined the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club (VCBC).

I soon found that there are many reasons why the VCBC is exemplary; they provide a safe, discrete venue in which to take one's medicine, at no charge - something the city would otherwise sorely lack. They are a non-profit society; allowing them to offer the best quality of medicine at the lowest cost. They are good neighbours. The staff are compassionate and discrete when discussing personal medical information - more than once have I seen them proactively prevent a Club member from revealing sensitive information about themselves to others. They are also a treasure trove of accurate and relevant information about cannabis, and together possess a rich collection of varied personal experience with the many uses and different ways to use it.

However, the thing that makes the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club unique is the vibrant community that its members have created over the years. The sense of belonging, and acceptance, is something that I have felt keenly every time I visit, and I am truly grateful for its presence in my life. To deny the rezoning application of the VCBC would be to deny this welcoming, respectful community its focal point - and the health and wellbeing of its members can only suffer as a result. I know mine sure would.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sebastian Campbell

Lacey Maxwell

From: Graham D [REDACTED]
Sent: August 10, 2017 11:52 AM
To: Lisa Helps (Mayor); Margaret Lucas (Councillor); Geoff Young (Councillor); Marianne Alto (Councillor); Chris Coleman (Councillor); Ben Isitt (Councillor); Jeremy Loveday (Councillor); Pam Madoff (Councillor); cthorton-joe@victoria.ca
Subject: Cannabis Buyers Club of Victoria - 826 Johnson St

Dear Victoria City Councillors and Mayor,

My name is Graham, and I am a long standing member of the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club of Canada on Johnson St downtown. I am aware that there will be a vote held in regards to the clubs request for rezoning and I am writing to you today to express my direct concerns of it not being passed. For roughly 10 years this compassion club has been offering me the medicines I need to live a normal daily life. They have been nothing but caring, and professional in all of my needs. I would not trust anyone else in the city to provide me with the medicines I need to ease my medical conditions. This wonderful place is very important to me and many other people I know and have come to know over the years. Not passing the rezoning application for this place would force them to close their doors, and would ultimately force me to suffer by not having a place I trust and feel comfortable to visit to obtain the medicine I depend on. . I urge you to please pass the vote to allow for rezoning and allow them to continue to help me and everyone else they serve on a daily basis.

Thank you for your time.

Graham Dubois

Lacey Maxwell

From: Keith Anderson [REDACTED]
Sent: August 10, 2017 4:20 PM
To: Lisa Helps (Mayor)
Subject: Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club (Teds)

Hello Lisa Helps

I recently learned that the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club (i.e Teds) may be in jeopardy from city council decisions.

I just wanted you to know that of all the sellers of Cannabis in town they are the only ones I have visited who are truly interested in helping people find relief from their medical afflictions.

There staff are friendly, helpful, and caring - when i discuss my arthritis and pains they are helpful and patient and very nice and always work and endeavour to find the correct products to alieviete my pain.

There is a spirit of helping and fellowship that I just dont find at the other dispencaries - in fact one in particular Medi jauna is the exact opposite - they just want to sell pot and dont care - in fact once when i was in a line up at the other dispencery (NOT CBC) but at medi jauna the staff told me to hurry up and make a decision as their was a long line up - I would never get that treat ment from Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club

Victoria Cannibis Buyers Club has help both me and my wife become functional again - I am a computer programmer and my arthritis would be so bad i could not work or type - cannabis and the cannabis buyers club helped to change that; also my wife also suffered a stroke and it effected her emotional responses to different things - medical marijanua helped her become more function also so that today her and I have built a successful online ordering business for restaurants - we are proud of our work and proud that our business is doing very well - all possible because of the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club.

I live and work and maintain my business here in beautiful Victoria BC.

Our business website

<http://www.orderonlineexpress.com>

Please do what ever you can to ensure the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club stays open and is able to serve patients like me and my wife - they truely are a compassiate and caring group that is a benefit to the people of Victoria.

Many Thanks

Keith Anderson

Lacey Maxwell

From: webforms@victoria.ca
Sent: August 10, 2017 12:14 PM
To: Victoria Mayor and Council
Subject: Please Support Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club's Rezoning Application

From: Sam Vekemans

Email : [REDACTED]

Reference : <http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/city/mayor-council-committees/contact-mayor-council.html>

Daytime Phone : [REDACTED]

Dear Mayor & Council,

Please support the Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club's Rezoning Application.

Everyone knows that Cannabis is safer than alcohol. And it is a fact that Victoria's city streets are SAFER as a result of people making the choice to consume cannabis instead of alcohol.

Cannabis should not be expensive, nor regulated any more than industry standards. And the VCBC created/maintains these regulations and standards.

Please allow for the VCBC to continue operations, to provide people with safe access to cannabis, as the years of successful operations have shown.

Thank you,
Sam Vekemans
Victoria, BC

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IP Address: 24.108.25.16

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Johnson Medijuana Dispensary** [REDACTED]

Date: Sun, Sep 24, 2017 at 9:00 AM

Subject: Letter of support - Rezoning

To: [REDACTED]

The Victoria Cannabis Buyers Club located one block away and across the street from our zoned Storefront Cannabis Retailer - Medijuana Johnson - should be considered for a rezoning as well, despite being within 200 meters of a zoned dispensary. The club has been in existence long before we started our operations and the hard work and forward thinking vision of its founders and staff have contributed substantially to the ethical cannabis marketplace that the city is looking to establish. They are a small and discrete location and do not employ any visible signage or have a large street level footprint. It's quite possible to pass by and not know what the location is. This speaks to me about their long standing history and desire to help others as a priority over making a profit or establishing a fancy brand. As a direct neighbour of this club I support their application for a rezoning.

Thank You.

Yours,

James

From: Ashley Yip [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2018 4:51 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Bylaw Amendment (No.1115) No. 17-094

Hello,

I am writing as a neighbor living at 760 Johnson St. I would like to express my opposition to the rezoning of 816-826 Johnson street for a cannabis retail store.

The current available evidence has demonstrated negative effects of cannabis use, with a glaring lack of evidence for the positive health effects often cited by cannabis supporters. In my medical experience, I have seen first-hand the detrimental effect cannabis can have, either directly by causing psychological harm (e.g. worsened depression, worsened anxiety, substance-induced psychosis, delayed frontal lobe development) or indirectly through its use as an alternative to standard therapy (e.g. patients with cancer choosing to use cannabis instead of conventional chemotherapy/radiotherapy).

Several cannabis retailers exist in my neighbourhood, including the newest which opened on Douglas and Johnson. I do not support making this substance more accessible than it already is. To my knowledge, cannabis retailers do not adequately screen for contraindications to cannabis use, including patients who:

- a. are under the age of 25
- b. have a personal history or strong family history of psychosis
- c. have a current or past cannabis use disorder
- d. have an active substance use disorder
- e. have cardiovascular (angina, peripheral vascular disease, cerebrovascular disease, arrhythmia) or respiratory disease
- f. are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or are breastfeeding

I refer the committee to the following three summaries:

1 - https://www.acfp.ca/wp-content/uploads/tools-for-practice/1510681044_tfp199mmandpainfv.pdf

1 - Clinical Question: Are medical cannabinoids (MC) effective for the treatment of pain?

Bottom Line: Evidence for inhaled marijuana for pain is too sparse and poor to provide good evidence-based guidance. Synthetic MC derived products may modestly improve neuropathic pain for one in 11-14 users but perhaps not for other pain types. Additionally, longer and larger studies (better evidence) show no effect. Adverse events are plentiful (see next Tools for Practice[#2]).

2 - https://www.acfp.ca/wp-content/uploads/tools-for-practice/1511480622_tfp200harmsmmfv.pdf

2 - Clinical Question: What are the harms associated with medical cannabinoid therapy? Bottom Line:

Compared to placebo, medical cannabinoids cause multiple different adverse events in patients, from visual disturbance or hypotension (1 in 3-10) to hallucination or paranoia (1 in 20). Stopping due to adverse effects occurs in 1 in every 8-20 patients. Regardless of the type of medical cannabinoid used, adverse events are common and likely underestimated. Given the extensive harms, potential benefits must be impressive to warrant a trial of therapy.

3 - https://www.acfp.ca/wp-content/uploads/tools-for-practice/1512754221_tfp201medcanotherfv.pdf

3 - Clinical Question: Besides pain, are medical cannabinoids effective for other conditions? Bottom Line: For most conditions (example anxiety), cannabinoid evidence is sparse (at best), low quality and non-convincing. Dronabinol/nabilone improve control of nausea/vomiting postchemotherapy for 1 in 3 users over placebo.

Nabiximols likely improve multiple sclerosis spasticity $\geq 30\%$ for ~1 in 10 users over placebo. Patients' preference for cannabinoids exceeds cannabinoids effectiveness.

Kind regards,

--

Ashley Yip

UBC Medicine, Class of 2018
Island Medical Program, Victoria

Pamela Martin

From: Evan Flater [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2018 3:01 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Bylaw Amendment (No.1115) No. 17-094

Hello,

I am writing as a neighbor living at 760 Johnson st. I would like to express my opposition to the re-zoning of 816-826 Johnson street for a Cannabis retail store.

Science has shown us the negative effects of Cannabis use and lack of evidence for positive health effects. There are already many "medical" cannabis retailers in the area and we do not need to promote further use unless appropriate controls and education are in place. If this store (and all existing ones) was to open, it would be reasonable to expect the owners to have to display and discuss with customers a full understanding of the negative health effects as outlined below. All buyers should exhibit understanding and consent to the negative impacts.

The Alberta College of Family Physicians did a satisfying job of reviewing and summarizing the scientific literature in the following 3 articles:

1 - https://www.acfp.ca/wp-content/uploads/tools-for-practice/1510681044_tfp199mmandpainfv.pdf

1 - Clinical Question: Are medical cannabinoids (MC) effective for the treatment of pain?

Bottom Line: Evidence for inhaled marijuana for pain is too sparse and poor to provide good evidence-based guidance. Synthetic MCderived products may modestly improve neuropathic pain for one in 11-14 users but perhaps not for other pain types. Additionally, longer and larger studies (better evidence) show no effect. Adverse events are plentiful (see next Tools for Practice[#2]).

2 - https://www.acfp.ca/wp-content/uploads/tools-for-practice/1511480622_tfp200harmssmmfv.pdf

2 - Clinical Question: What are the harms associated with medical cannabinoid therapy? **Bottom Line:**

Compared to placebo, medical cannabinoids cause multiple different adverse events in patients, from visual disturbance or hypotension (1 in 3-10) to hallucination or paranoia (1 in 20). Stopping due to adverse effects occurs in 1 in every 8-20 patients. Regardless of the type of medical cannabinoid used, adverse events are common and likely underestimated. Given the extensive harms, potential benefits must be impressive to warrant a trial of therapy.

3 - https://www.acfp.ca/wp-content/uploads/tools-for-practice/1512754221_tfp201medcanotherfv.pdf

3 - Clinical Question: Besides pain, are medical cannabinoids effective for other conditions? **Bottom Line:** For most conditions (example anxiety), cannabinoid evidence is sparse (at best), low quality and non-convincing. Dronabinol/nabilone improve control of nausea/vomiting postchemotherapy for 1 in 3 users over placebo. Nabiximols likely improve multiple sclerosis spasticity $\geq 30\%$ for ~ 1 in 10 users over placebo. Patients' preference for cannabinoids exceeds cannabinoids effectiveness.

I ask that any consideration of rezoning be reasoned and consider system wide impacts.

Thank you,
Evan

--
Evan Flater

Pamela Martin

From: MICHAEL TOBY [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 1:47 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: CA-83 Harris Green (cannabis)

Hello Council

With respect to the propose changes in zoning for 818-826 Johnson St from CA-HG to CA-83, it is my opinion and preference that this not be permitted and this existing business be closed down.

I have no objection to the recent changes and relaxation in the laws regarding the retail sales of marijuana. Having said that , I feel strongly that this particular neighbourhood has been presented with enough challenges over the last 20 months from the governments decision to move scores of homeless people into the property right next door at 844 Johnson St, many whom have severe addiction and mental health issues.

This particular shop appears to have put absolutely nothing into upgrading the appearance and cleanliness of the site and remains nothing more than a grotty little hole in the wall which attracts a less than desirable clientele. A clientele that this neighbour hood is already struggling with.

As a taxpayer I would much prefer counsel to put its energy into rezoning changes for business people whom are prepared to put money into upgrading buildings and neighbourhoods that are going to enhance the beauty of our city and lifestyle of its residents.

Mike Toby
834 Johnson St