

Pamela Martin

From: Nick Budd [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 8:10 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Amendment Bylaw No 17-033 / 950 Yates St

I write regarding the Public Hearing regarding the Amendment Bylaw to rezone 950 Yates St.

Yates St is, in part, a residential neighbourhood in the process of urban renewal with, amongst other things, schools and family apartments.

I respectfully suggest this community does not need another seedy cannabis, elixirs, and vape store. Take a look at parts of Vancouver where, seemingly, every tenth shop is a cannabis paraphenalia operation invariably in the process of going out of business. Moral and legal issues aside, this is not good urban planning and not the makings of a healthy community. The rapid proliferation of these stores is neither necessary, desirable, nor in the end economically sustainable. Please do not blight this neighbourhood with (another) one of these stores.

I do NOT support this rezoning application.

Mr N. Budd

Owner 1104/930 Yates St.

[REDACTED]

Pamela Martin

From: Jenny Stoltz [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 12:22 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: changes to 950 Yates Street

New zone R-83 Harris Green Cannabis district.
Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 1094) No. 17-033

I want to voice my **OPPOSITION** to this. I do not want a Cannabis store in my neighbourhood. It's already too much that you have two homeless shelters and two needle exchanges within one block of my condo. When do the rights of the residents become more important than the rights of drug users and street people? Can you do any more to destroy my property value or to make my coming and going to the building any less appealing?

NO. NO. NO I DO NOT WANT IT. Put it near your own house!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Why don't you pick on some other area????? Leave ours, it's bad enough there. You can't even walk the street any more. You can say the store won't make a difference but it will bring more people of the kind I do not want. I feel as though the city is destroying my neighbourhood. I am a tax payer. I want to be **HEARD**. Why don't you put it somewhere else instead of concentrating it in this area????????????????????????????????

Yes I'm angry. It seems the government does nothing but make my life more difficult while kowtowing to drug users and less desirables, many of who are not hard working people and do not even pay taxes. You are destroying the downtown core and lifestyle.

I own 101-935 Johnson Street.

I want my email address and phone number to remain confidential.

Jenny Stoltz
Cell [REDACTED]

Pamela Martin

From: jeanne wiseman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 8:47 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No.1094) No. 17-033

I'm writing to express that I have no concern regarding rezoning to allow a storefront cannabis retailer at 950 Yates. As a legitimate business they would be paying taxes (which is more than can be said for the illegal VRBO rentals that operate in the same neighbourhood).

Jeanne Wiseman
Owner, 108 932 Johnson St

Please keep my email and phone number confidential.

Pamela Martin

From: Martin & Anne Barnes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 10:24 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Comment on Zoning Regulation Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 1094) No. 17-033

As owners of apartment 205, 935 Johnson St. we wish to submit our views on the proposal to rezone 950 Yates St. to allow a cannabis retail outlet.

We strongly object to this proposal on two major grounds:

The area already has various premises that cater to vulnerable members of society and the addition of a cannabis store in the same vicinity is thus inappropriate

There has already been a marked increase in the number of cannabis outlets in the city and the case for an additional outlet in this location is very weak, to say the least.

Victoria already has many challenges in maintaining its position as a desirable tourist destination and in providing a safe and welcoming environment for downtown residents. The ongoing profusion of cannabis outlets can only add to these challenges and thus should be tightly controlled. We cannot think of any good reason why this proposal should be accepted.

Yours sincerely

Anne and Martin Barnes
Unit 205
935 Johnson Street
Victoria

Pamela Martin

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 1:57 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Neighbourhood feedback - 851 Johnson & 950 Yates

Good afternoon,

I have received notice of proposed changes to re-zone both 851 Johnson and 950 Yates for storefront cannabis retail. These notices also provided opportunity to provide feedback by email for those unable to attend the City Council meeting on July 27th, 630pm. The following is my feedback on the proposed changes:

As a property owner in the area of the proposed changes, I oppose the proposed changes.

Currently, the retail selling of cannabis is illegal in Canada, inclusive of cannabis for medicinal purposes. Movement by the City is premature considering that the provincial government is actively working on the regulatory scheme for cannabis legalization (currently set for a July 2018 implementation by the federal government; recently requested by Manitoba to be postponed). In addition, given the lack of enforcement for these types of [illegal] stores, I would argue it is short sighted to further freely condone and allow through rezoning, even though these stores are already in existence and being provided business licenses by the City for operation.

Secondly, on a more basic level, I find that these operations smell bad and create a pollution for the immediate environment. The storefront itself typically smells, and, in addition, many people decide to smoke cannabis frequently out in front of the store.

I understand that many municipalities have their own motivations for the inevitable with respect to the impending legislative changes; such as increased tax revenues and permitting/licence/rezoning fees. However, what regulations do you have in place to ensure no sale to minors (a level yet to be determined)? What extra enforcement efforts are you dedicating funds to to ensure no sale to minors (bylaw or police)? What extra efforts or funds have been dedicated to preventing drug impaired driving? What funds are being directed to monitoring and or enforcing conditions of a business licence? It seems there is really only one operational condition for the license and that is cannabis on-site or not? What policies do you have in place to mitigate proximity to schools or mitigate proximity to another dispensary? These two dispensaries are currently operating and are located within 1 block of each other.

I am supportive of the federal government's move to legalize, and for the provincial government(s) regulation thereof. Surely, it will be better than what is currently in place. However, it is arguably reckless and contradictory to condone these businesses through license and zoning, without an adequate legal and regulatory infrastructure whereby the City collects the funds but throws hands up with respect to the responsibilities. It is double mouthed to say on your website that the sale of cannabis is against federal law, but we will let you sell it anyway (with little oversight and enforcement (bylaw or police)).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Please do not disclose any of my personal information - name, email address, or Unit identifier in the address in any public documents. Address of the building is fine for release/inclusion in the public document.

Best regards,

██████████

Property Owner, Unit ██████ 930 Yates, Victoria

Pamela Martin

From: Dee Won [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2017 1:10 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: Feedback on zoning by-law (No.1094) No.17-033

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to object to the proposed amendment to rezone 950 Yates Street as a Cannabis district to permit a storefront cannabis retailer. The city has a significant number of existing cannabis stores in this neighbourhood, including one retailer located one block away on Fort Street, another proposed around the corner on Cook Street and one near Quadra. I walk past three different cannabis retailers on my way to work every morning, and it's only a ten minute walk into town. While I am not opposed to cannabis consumption or retailers I am concerned that the number of cannabis retailers is growing out of proportion with what would make sense in this particular neighbourhood with its growing and developing mix of seniors, young professionals and families. Adding yet another cannabis retailer to the area means the loss of the opportunity to attract another kind of business to the Harris Green neighbourhood which could enhance the community.

For these reasons, I am opposed to the rezoning of 950 Yates Street for a cannabis retailer and I ask City Council to consider another type of development for this area.

Kind regards,

Dorothy Wong
1010 View Street

Pamela Martin

From: Kristina Nilsson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2017 1:03 PM
To: Public Hearings
Subject: for council meeting July 27, 2017

re: Harris Green re-zoning R-48 to R-83 for cannabis sales

1. This shop has been operating on this site for some time, and is visible from my windows and balcony, on the 4th floor of 1010 View St. It's not a good addition to the neighbourhood but has not, to my knowledge, been a public nuisance.

2. Two aspects of the development proposal are cause for concern. One is the parking lot, inviting patrons from outside the district, so it is likely to become much busier than it currently is.

Secondly, the patio proposed will be not only visible, but within smelling distance of my balcony. [Smoking is not permitted in our building, and even smoking on balconies generates complaints from other tenants.] I can imagine crowds congregating on that patio. Chances are there will be umbrellas and awnings added for rainy weather, and the smell will become year-round. NOTE, the patio is accessible from the parking area, not just restricted to patrons: anyone can wander in, and it will become a magnet for public socializing around cannabis use... it will be a busy place!

3. This shop is within walking distance of both Victoria High and Central Middle schools, and could develop a large after-school clientele. I don't know if there are closer cannabis shops to those schools, but it's a serious consideration, not only for the health of the students, but also from the public-nuisance aspect of large crowds of teens.

I oppose the plan because of the increased traffic (pedestrian & auto), and the smoke from the public patio space. It is of particular importance because my apartment is right at the corner of Vancouver and Yates (actually 3rd floor above grade at the street corner).

I apologize for not being able to attend the July 27th meeting in person.

~Kristina Nilsson
403-1010 View St., Victoria
[REDACTED]