



## James Bay Neighbourhood Association

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jbna@vcn.bc.ca

December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016

Mayor and Council,  
City of Victoria.

**Re: Storefront Cannabis Retailer Bylaw**

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

Further to the JBNA Board submission of September 8<sup>th</sup>, we wish to reiterate concerns regarding the City's approach to the licensing of the marijuana operations and activities.

Landlords and businesses are currently being approached to host such operations; resident concerns are being expressed. The normalization of access to cannabis drug use, beyond the promotion of liquor and prescription drugs, may speak to a preferential treatment by Council.

We ask Council revisit the bylaw with the objective of permitting dispensaries in a manner more reflective of liquor or pharmacy proximity that we now experience rather than the 200m proximity in the Storefront Cannabis Retailer Bylaw. There are two pharmacies in James Bay serving 12,000 people (Pharmasave and Thrifty Foods). Using this as a measure of needed access for medical drugs, the City of Victoria would be well served with only 7 cannabis retail operations.

Anecdotally, as I visit my son in Vancouver, within walking of his apartment, there are several cannabis retail operations. On the commercial street near him, the other retail operations are being squeezed out. The street draws a different clientele than it did a couple years ago. Victoria may be about to irreversibly alter its retail mix for a decade as all gets sorted out.

JBNA continues to recognize its role in the CALUC process.

We ask Council to apply the *Precautionary Principle*. With the federal and provincial regulations and guidelines not yet in place, we ask Mayor and Council to suspend any further licensing pending the roll-out of the federal and provincial policies.

Respectfully submitted,

Marg Gardiner  
President, JBNA

Cc: JBNA Board