

Kazakoff, Laura

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 4:16 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: the marijuana shop controls bylaw

-----Original Message-----

From: Frank Miller s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 4:05 PM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: Re: the marijuana shop controls bylaw

Dear Vancouver Council

There is no scientific medical benefit to marijuana.

There are stories and anecdotes.

Go to PubMed, and search marijuana and reviews and Cochrane for the blue-ribbon Cochrane reviews of reviews.

Dr. Kerry Jang can help you go through the 50 short abstracts shown.

Shut the shops down as Burnaby has done.

yours,
Frank Miller

Kazakoff, Laura

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 4:20 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: My neighbourhood
Attachments: photo 1.JPG; ATT00001.txt; photo 2.JPG; ATT00002.txt; photo 3.JPG; ATT00003.txt

-----Original Message-----
s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: Karin England
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 8:35 AM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: My neighbourhood

Hello,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
I live in east Vancouver. There have been changes in the last 2-3 years that have altered the character and perceived safety of my neighbourhood. On the short walk from my bus stop home every day I pass people living in the bushes at Hastings and the connector, 3 pot shops, and a homeless shelter all within 1-2 blocks of Franklin Elementary. It seems to me that we are becoming a pot hub and given the proximity to a transit hub, I am concerned that we will be attracting people from other parts of town.

While I was initially in support of the shelter, I have seen an increase in shady characters hanging around near there and am hoping that you will keep your word and keep it temporary.

I would like the City to disallow pot shops, and enforce federal law. If people need medicinal marijuana, it should be dispensed from a pharmacy, not from stores with displays that celebrate pot culture.

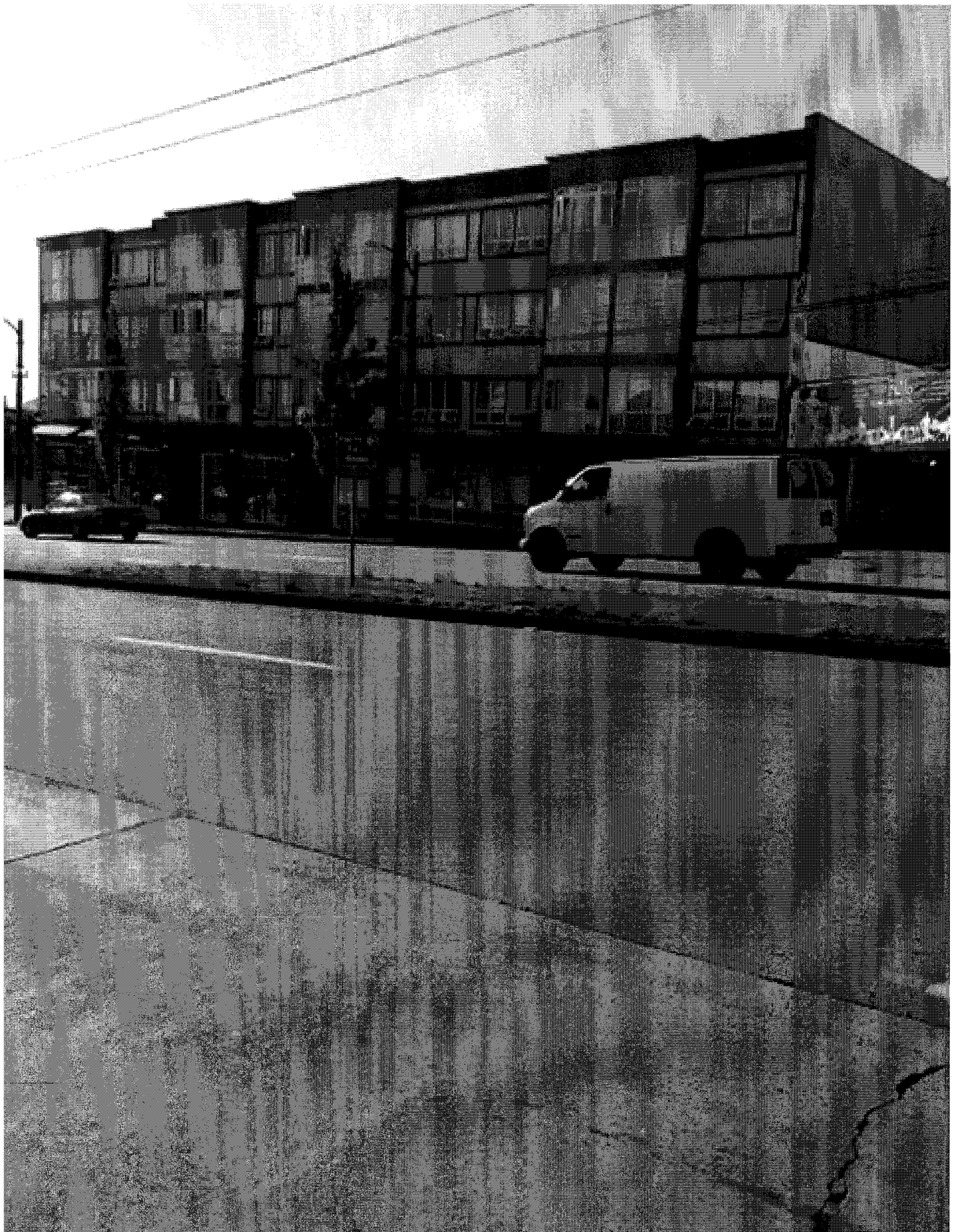


WEDS

ON THE SLIVER

AVAILABLE HERE

OPEN



Kazakoff, Laura

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 12:41 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: Public Hearing June 10 2015

From: Kara Smith s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 6:53 PM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: Public Hearing June 10 2015

Dear Mayor and City Council;

I'm writing today for consideration of the public hearing on June 10th 2015. I work for a dispensary in Vancouver and I have been able to be a part of helping thousands of patients improve their quality of life. I have seen people dealing with cancer, chronic pain, HIV, mental illness, fibromyalgia and most recently multiple sclerosis.

I entered this industry for my mother who had been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis 3 years ago. As a family, we have seen her struggle daily with her mobility and a loss of feeling on her left side. She has tried medication after medication and undergone several scans and tests with no avail. Nothing has helped her as much as cannabis. She is unable to consume it by smoking due to the tightness in her chest so she has recently turned to edibles to ease her near constant nerve pain and muscle spasticity. Within an hour after ingesting a small dose, she has seen amazing improvements that no pharmaceutical drug has been able to provide her. For years, she has had to deal with painful injections, bouts of kidney stones with little to no relief from symptoms. For the first time in 3 years, we have hope. With all of the studies available, to believe that cannabis is more harmful than helpful would be ignorant. CBD (a non psychoactive element in the plant) has been linked to adult neurogenesis which could lead to a cure for patients with neurological diseases. Something previously believed to be impossible. Canada is known to have one of the highest diagnoses of Multiple Sclerosis in the world (BC being the highest known diagnosis in Canada). With statistics like this, shouldn't we allow them to have access to healthier medications that improve their symptoms without harmful side effects?

I'm also a patient. For most of my life, I have struggled with Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Panic Disorder and Depression. I've seen many doctors, psychiatrists and therapists over the years who's only main concern seemed to be constantly medicating me, insisting that I have some sort of imbalance in my brain. Of course, there are no tests to be done that can confirm this and they wouldn't know for sure until I tried several antidepressants and anti-psychotics. Believing that this was my only option, I was put on drug after drug that either kept me feeling the same or had me suffering with symptoms that were even worse than my initial issues. One of these was a small pill called Ativan, a potent and highly addictive medication in the Benzodiazepine family that my doctor insisted was safe, non-habit forming (which can easily be disputed with the amount of patients stuck on them, all clinging to support groups trying to figure out what went wrong) and that I could take it as needed. For someone who was suffering from panic attacks several times a day, I needed it quite a bit. I found myself forcibly dependent and no doctor could understand why I wanted to stop taking it regardless of my inter-dose withdrawals and being unable to function without it. In their eyes, it was my fault that I was addicted to it and they even believed that I was abusing it. Without much help, I was able to get myself far away from it but it has left me wondering to this day why doctors will put patients on these harmful medications and

why these are even legal to begin with. Cannabis has been the only medication that has helped me to the point where I have gone some days with no panic attacks and my depression alleviated.

Edibles such as medicated brownies, gummies and drinks provide a great alternative for many patients who are unable to smoke the plant. They also have a different effect focusing on the body more than the mind which is desirable for patients with body pain and muscle spasticity with longer lasting relief. It is fair to say that these resemble snacks that kids can get their hands on but it is also the patient's responsibility to keep their medication away from their children. There have been many cases of accidental overdoses with legal drugs such as cough syrup, pills and vitamins all of which resemble candies and juice. It is arbitrary to ban a medication because of the risk that children will attempt to eat them. Even if they did, cannabis has an EXTREMELY high lethal dose which is why NO fatal overdose has ever been directly contributed to cannabis. Obviously cannabis isn't the problem if we have to put television commercials to remind parents not to let their children drink cough syrup.

With the amount of information and resources available, it's ridiculous to believe that cannabis is a dangerous substance. Alcohol and cigarettes are directly attributed to more incidents of death, injury and violence causing domestic abuse, alcohol poisoning, drunk driving and cancer. Both are addictive and highly dangerous when in the wrong hands. Charging dispensaries with a higher business licence simply due to a stigma isn't impartial. It's biased and unnecessary.

I urge you to consider that the benefits of cannabis far outweigh any negatives and do your own research before making a decision. For banning elements like edibles and making it harder for our businesses to exist (as with the incredibly high licence fee) you are hurting the patients who are benefiting from using cannabis more than you are the recreational users. Thank you for taking the time to listen.

Sincerely,

Kara Smith
Kandu Cannameds Society

Kazakoff, Laura

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 12:41 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: Vancouver . . . Marijuana *****!!!

From: Rankin Smith s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 8:13 PM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: Vancouver . . . Marijuana *****!!!

[REDACTED] Well Vancouver, the amount of "Medical Marijuana" stores and shops starting up in Vancouver is going way above the limit allowed by the police / government !!! Which yes, I know that all these homeless peoples need their "Medical Marijuana" to keep them drugged and stoned with out even paying for it !!! But besides these homeless peoples breaking in to cars and stealing stereos and other things - breaking in to locked houses . . . ! There is a much better side to life than the BC Government allowing these peoples to keep their drug habbits while charging each and every other person in British Columbia way more extra taxes !!!
Do you see - what I see ??? O M G !!!

HAVE A GREAT DAY !!!

Sincerely ;

Rankin Smith

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Kazakoff, Laura

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 12:41 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: Marijuana dispensaries

-----Original Message----- s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: Laurence Gough
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 8:32 AM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: Marijuana dispensaries

Dear Mayor and Council,

I'm away from town right now, thus the email. Opposed to dispensaries for two reasons:

First, no legal source of drug available to dispensaries equals an open invitation to the criminal element to become involved, assuming that hasn't already happened. Which seems doubtful. I don't understand how Council -or the VPD - can ignore this unassailable fact.

Second, the medical profession acknowledges a direct link between marijuana use and the risk of schizophrenia. There is a downside to using this drug.

Leadership doesn't just mean being trendy, or hip. Council stood idly by while illegal drug dealers set up shop all over this city. A huge mistake, but it can be rectified. Council could shut down every single 'dispensary', if it had the will to do so, and I believe that's what you should do.

Sincerely,

Laurence Gough

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Kazakoff, Laura

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 12:42 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: Regulation of Retail Dealers - Medical Marijuana-Related Uses
Attachments: VCBIA letter_ Regulation of Retail Dealers - Medical Marijuana-Related Uses.PDF

From: Executive Manager VCBIA s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 9:16 AM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: Regulation of Retail Dealers - Medical Marijuana-Related Uses

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Please find the Vancouver Chinatown BIA letter attached to express our view about the Regulation of Retail Dealers - Medical Marijuana-Related Uses.

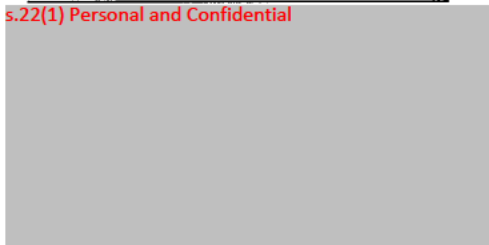
Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

B. regards,

Raymond Chau
Assistant Manager

Vancouver Chinatown BIA Society
www.vancouver-chinatown.com

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential





溫哥華華埠商業促進會
Vancouver Chinatown BIA Society

106 Keefer Street, Vancouver, BC V6A 1X4
Tel: 604-632-3808 Fax: 604-632-3809
E-mail: events@vancouver-chinatown.com

June 9, 2015

CITY OF VANCOUVER
453 West 12 Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.
V5Y 1V4

Attn.: His Worship, Mayor Gregor Robertson and Vancouver City Councilors

Dear Sirs or Madams:

Re: Regulation of Retail Dealers – Medical Marijuana-Related Uses

We wish to strongly express the concerns of our members regarding the recommendations presented in the report by the Chief License Inspector and the General Manager of Planning and Development Services pertaining to the regulations of retail dealers of Medical Marijuana.

In particular, we oppose the suggestion that Hastings and Main Streets be the two corridors in the DTES where dispensaries are allowed. Hastings Street runs the northern border of Chinatown, while Main Street bisects the historic community.

Chinatown has already been adversely affected by the drug issues that have plagued the DTES. Ongoing governmental programs to mitigate the negative effects have not been successful.

Work done through Historic Area Height Review to revitalize Chinatown will be reversed by legitimizing and encouraging illegal drug use in the heart of Chinatown as an approved location for dispensaries.

In July, 2012, City Council approved the Chinatown Neighbourhood Plan and the Chinatown Economic Revitalization Strategy Plan as part of a 12 year community process to revitalize Chinatown's business and cultural environment. The major reason for the need for this process was the pressures from the residential community along Hastings Street, and the high concentration of social services and businesses servicing the drug addicted and those with mental illness. Even with the new residential developments in Chinatown, we continue to suffer as a result of our proximity to Hastings Street with the open drug use in the back lanes and street front disorder.

The City of Vancouver should be supporting the community's efforts in tandem with the City planning department by not allowing uses that will have a negative impact in the neighbourhood.

We hope that City Council will reconsider the planning department's recommendation that legitimizes and encourages the concentration of illegal drug use in the DTES by not allowing marijuana dispensaries in the Chinatown precinct.

Yours truly,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Albert Fok,
Chair, VCBIA

Kazakoff, Laura

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 2:16 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: Regulation of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: Claudia Laroye
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 7:49 PM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office; Reimer, Andrea; Jang, Kerry; Affleck, George; Carr, Adriane; Louie, Raymond; Deal, Heather; Ball, Elizabeth; De Genova, Melissa; Stevenson, Tim; Meggs, Geoff
Subject: Regulation of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the members of the Marpole BIA, we are writing regarding the proposed regulation of illegal medical marijuana dispensaries in Vancouver.

These businesses have been allowed to proliferate despite breaking Federal law and City of Vancouver bylaws.

This has caused major issues (safety, health, business viability) for our members, visitors and residents.

We request that City of Vancouver bylaws be implemented without prejudice and that all businesses wishing to operate within the City be required to meet all federal laws, provincial laws, and municipal bylaws.

Those operations that are now in violation of the above should be closed until such time as they are meeting all the regulations federally, provincially and municipally. At that time we wish to be consulted regarding policies to regulate such operations to ensure business mix, safety and neighbourhood viability.

Respectfully Submitted,

Claudia Laroye
Executive Director

=====
Confidential: This electronic (email) transmission contains confidential information intended only for the addressee(s). Any other recipient is prohibited Sent from my iPhone

I ♥ Marpole

Kazakoff, Laura

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 2:23 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: Citizen Feedback- s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: 311 Operations
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 1:04 PM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: Citizen Feedback- s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Dear Mayor and Council,

Please kindly review the citizen feedback below.

Thank you,
Cathy
3-1-1 Contact Centre
City of Vancouver



Citizen Feedback

Case number: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Case created: 2015-06-11, 12:26:00 PM

Incident Location

Address: , ,

Address2:

Location name:

Contact Details

Name: MOUNT, BARBARA **See Note** (Ms)

Address: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Address2: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Phone: Confidential

Email: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Alt. Phone: Preferred contact method: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Request Details

1. Describe details (who, what, where, when, why): *

Feels that marijuana should be fully illegal in Vancouver and all the dispensaries should be closed in Vancouver, and moved to areas such as Surrey, or closed outright. Does not

think that we should allow dispensaries because parents might feed their children edibles or the kids might find their parent's drugs and take them. Feels that we are becoming too much like Amsterdam, where there are two types of coffee shops, one for coffee and one for drugs and that will cause chaos in the city, just like Amsterdam is dealing with.

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Additional Comments