

April 27, 2015.

Vancouver City Council Members:

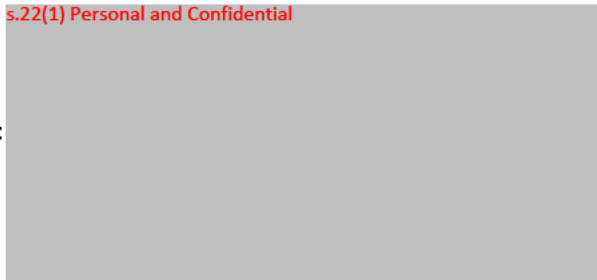
I, Julian DeMarco currently reside in the Vancouver area, near the Vancouver Pain Management Society's dispensary located at 2137 Commercial Drive. I am writing today to state that I support this dispensary and use their services regularly. I don't believe that it causes more crime or more serious problems with drug users in the area. I also don't think that this dispensary makes it easier for school aged children to gain access to the medicine. The dispensary has membership requirements to prevent minors from entering the establishment. In the time I have lived in the area and frequented this dispensary, my experience has been positive and pleasant. I feel it would negatively impact my life if they ceased to operate in their current location. Being a medical marijuana patient, I need convenient and easy access to my medicine.

Signed,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Name:

Address:





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Subject **Letter from Dan**
From Dan Deresh s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
To s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Date 2015-04-27 19:17



Dear Vancouver City Council,

I would like to begin by saying that I applaud your efforts to bring marijuana into the mainstream, and to lead the way for the rest of Canada.

Unfortunately, two of your three proposed criteria, while well-intentioned, are both steps in the wrong direction from a public health standpoint.

Banning the sale of edibles will prevent patients from having access to to one of the safest intake methods of marijuana. Forcing all patients to smoke their marijuana is a huge step in the wrong direction. If the concern is that edibles will appeal to children, the premise is flawed. A single serving of marijuana edibles can cost \$6 to \$10. Children who have \$6 to \$10 to spend on candy will want more than a single cookie for their money. As long as you have convenience stores selling five cent gummies, you have no danger of children seeking to obtain edibles from a marijuana dispensary.

The 300 foot rule is also well intentioned, but far to expansive to be practical. It also sends the wrong message, that marijuana belongs on the margins of society. If we are going to lead the way into a sensible future for marijuana in Canada, we in Vsncouver have to take a more positive view of these dispensaries, and the positive impact they can play in their community.

Again, I celebrate your efforts to make access to marijuana a normalized transaction, but I encourage you to go back to the drawing board on your criteria before pushing forward with this proposal.

**Sincerely, Dan Deresh
Coquitlam, Bc**

Sent from my iPhone

INTRODUCTION

After serving over twenty years in prisons, Joseph Godin decided to do research on how the marijuana prohibition came about. What he found dated back to ten thousand years before Christ.

In this format you will find the truth about the cannabis prohibition which started in the early 1920's.

THE CANNABIS DEBATE

Cannabis sativa is a legendary and mystical plant that has been used for food, textile, medicine, pleasure and religious purposes for thousands of years. *Cannabis sativa* is one of the most ancient plants cultivated by man. It was already developed in China 10,000 years before Jesus Christ. The oldest recordings of this plant are found in the book of Janus.

Today it has been divided into two classes: "Industrial Hemp" called (*Cannabis sativa*) a legal textile plant, and "marijuana" (also called *Cannabis sativa*) a psychotropic plant. The psychotropic version has been illegal in Canada since the 1930's. In fact both versions belong to the same species. Industrial hemp, we are told, has less than .05 per cent of the active THC, while marijuana has more than .05 per cent. When is a carrot not a carrot? When it has less than .05 per cent carotene in it?

We are told that "Industrial hemp" and "marijuana" are cousins, while they are in fact brothers and sisters. We have been lied to. Hemp is the plant while Marijuana is the fruit of the hemp plant. This fruit is called a Cola. As a horticulturist, I know that "*Cannabis sativa*" and "*Cannabis sativa*" is the same. We don't need to be rocket scientists to figure that out.

Still today, in the entire world, doctors plead in favour of using the flower tops of marijuana as a treatment against pain.

Christopher Columbus first introduced hemp in America in 1492. The seeds were equally introduced in America by slaves. For centuries, hemp remained a strategic matter for England. In Amsterdam, marijuana imported from South Africa since 1660 was being smoked in coffee shops, a tradition that still exists today.

At the end of the nineteenth century, the Indian emigrants introduced cannabis in Mexico, where they took the name of marijuana to become the symbol of the Pancho Villa revolution with the song "La Cucaracha."

In 1840 Dr. W.B.O. Shaughnessy, Professor of Chemistry in the Medical College of Calcutta, experimented with the effects of cannabis. He found that it made people sleepy, gave them an appetite, and they became extremely content. Its effects lasted approximately two hours. He found that no harm came to the user, and it became a medicine.

Around the same time, the French traveler C.S. Sonnini noted that it gave people a sort of pleasing inebriety, a state of reverie that inspired gaiety and occasions of agreeable dreams. Cannabis has been known for centuries to induce languid placidity in humans.

In 1844, Dumas, Gauthier and Beasdeclaire, all members of "Le Club des Hashichins" reported that hashish has no evil physical effects; or at worst, no serious ones. Other experimenters with hashish were to reach a similar conclusion-amongst them the American Fitzhugh Ludlow. In 1846, "Le Club des Hashichins" started the "Drug Parties." In a particular hotel on the island of Saint Louis in Paris, you could find doctors, artists and celebrities tripping out together.

Doctors and psychiatrists at the end of the nineteenth century discovered amazing therapeutic applications with cannabis: labour pains, asthma, cramps, tetanus, epilepsy, insomnia, opium withdrawals and St. Guy dance... Even the Queen Victoria of England, like numerous other women of her generation used it to calm menstrual pains, a practice that is still going on today in South America. The queen was also very fond of hashish jam.

The British Raj's investigation conducted in 1870 reported that cannabis drugs were less dangerous than their reputation suggested, and that in any case prohibition was impractical.

In 1871 it was reported that cannabis drugs did not release criminal instincts. The report concluded with the Commission's verdict on the issue, which they had been brought together to consider: Should Cannabis drugs be banned? The answer was an empathic "No." The drugs were not a serious hazard. Banning them would be politically dangerous.

In summing up, the commissioners in their report could claim that they had carefully examined the physical, mental and moral effects of cannabis drugs. Used in moderation, no observable adverse effects had been discovered. There was no evidence that cannabis drugs were habit-forming in the way alcohol and opium were. By scrupulously checking all records, the Commission was able to acquit cannabis drugs of the charges laid against them.

The Liberal Government set up a fresh enquiry in 1893.

The Commission was composed of three British colonial officials, three native non-official gentlemen and a secretary H.J. McIntosh, with the Chairman being the Honourable W. Macworth Young.

Civil servants, army officers, magistrates, doctors, lawyers and businessmen filled in the questionnaires which were circulated. Only one group, the Commission was surprised to find, appeared reluctant to offer their services, and returned the questionnaires unanswered.

Why, the Commissioner wondered, should the Indian missionary show such little concern?

By pondering the question, they picked up an early clue. If the missionaries, of all people, disclaimed knowledge of the effect of cannabis drugs, the drugs could hardly be a very serious threat to the social, mental or moral condition of the Indian people.

After hearing the witnesses, the Commissioners were assured that smoking cannabis was less harmful than drinking alcohol.

A medicine, an aid to endurance, a drink on family or religious occasions; in none of these capacities, the Commissioners felt, could the effects of cannabis be regarded as menacing.

In so far as they could be summarised the immediate effect of cannabis was: refreshment and stimulation and alleviation of fatigue, giving rise to pleasurable sensations all over the nervous system, so that the consumer is at peace with everybody in a grand waking dream. He is able to concentrate his thoughts on one subject-it affords him pleasure, vigour, ready wit, capacity for hard work and sharpness for business. Cannabis has a quieting effect on the nervous system, removes restlessness and induces forgetfulness of mental troubles. All sorts of grotesque ideas rapidly pass through the mind, with a tendency to talk. It brightens the eyes and, like a good cigar, gives content.

The commissioners found no evidence to justify the drug's ugly reputation. It was nevertheless desirable.

Vollmer was a respected figure—he was a former President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Vollmer went on to argue that drug addiction was not a police problem. It never has been and never can be solved by policemen—it was a medical problem. But how little attention was paid to his opinions could be gauged from the fact that the following year, Congress passed a law bringing yet another drug under federal prohibition—Indian hemp.

Before 1900 hemp had hardly been rated as a drug in the United States. It had long been one of the main cash crops – grown by, among others, George Washington. Washington, a grand master of the Freemasons, encouraged later administrators to grow the crop chiefly to provide fibres for textiles. It was no more regarded as a plant drug than the morning glory.

In 1894 a Report on the Indian Hemp Drug Commission, running to over 3,000 pages in seven volumes was published. This inquiry, commissioned by the British Government, concluded there was no evidence of any weight regarding the mental and moral injuries from the moderate use of marijuana.

According to the People's Almanac the U.S. department of Agriculture published a pamphlet “urging Americans to grow marijuana as a profitable undertaking” in 1920.

The Department announced that it was going to import experimental quantities of ‘superior varieties of hemp seeds’ from the East, for experiments to see how they would grow in America.

Experimental Farms were established at which tests could be made. Hemp was found to do very well in the Eastern and Upper Southern States. Farms were commercially started in Pennsylvania, Virginia and South Carolina.

During the war, farmers were encouraged to produce still more, until they almost fulfilled the country's entire requirement; a feat greatly held to the credit of Henry Fuller, in his survey of American drugs published in 1922.

In North America, the use of smoking cannabis made its appearance around 1900 with Mexican workers and Caribbean sailors. The first anti-marijuana laws of racist character appeared in the United States around 1915 in an effort to discredit the coloured populations, principally Blacks and Mexicans.

In 1920 marijuana began to acquire a sinister reputation, and the Treasury Department in Washington set up a move in 1930 to get marijuana banned throughout the country.

Harry J. Anslinger had been Assistant Commissioner of Prohibition, and was anxious to wipe out the memory of his failure to make prohibition work. He was young, ambitious and filled with a deep repugnance for drugs, dating back to an episode in his childhood. He had been born in Pennsylvania, near a township in which one adult out of ten was reputed to be an opium addict. As a twelve-year-old, he heard a woman screaming in agony for the drug, a sound he never forgot. He had come to feel the same horror for marijuana, without realizing that opium and marijuana didn't have the same effects at all on a human being.

At this stage, the decision whether or not to classify hemp as a narcotic within the meaning of the Act was left optional. Anslinger, regarding this as unsatisfactory, was determined to arouse public opinion to the marijuana menace.

In 1930, The Federal Bureau of Narcotics is formed with guess who? You're right! Harry J. Anslinger was it's first Commissioner. Some say he was even a Freemason. A campaign against marijuana was set up by Anslinger. His bureau prepared a brochure, claiming that habitual users of marijuana eventually developed a delirious rage after its administration and became irresponsible and prone to commit violent crimes. He claimed its effects caused unpredictability. Anslinger aroused fear of marijuana.

In 1937, shortly before the passage of the Marijuana Tax act, people were being told that they could grow enough marijuana in a breadbox to render the whole United States crazy.

Anslinger told people that marijuana was the cause of murders, suicides, robberies, criminal assaults, holdups, burglaries and deeds of maniacal insanities. He said that when a person smoked a joint, he became like a bestial demoniac, with an irresistible urge to kill.

He said much of the prevailing crime, vice, and gang warfare were due to marijuana use.

Anslinger wrote letters all over the world to convince people that marijuana was a "Killer Drug." He was persistent, and gave network radio broadcasts to arouse fear of the drug marijuana. Anslinger's main aim was to shake Congress into action and he succeeded.

Anslinger secured a fervent supporter, Earle Albert Rowell, a hot-gospeller who had been touring America, lecturing audiences on marijuana's effects. According to Rowell's thesis, the drug:

- 1: Destroys willpower, making a jellyfish of the user. He cannot say "no."
- 2: Eliminates the line between right and wrong.
- 3: Above all, causes crime, filling the victim with an irrepressible urge to violence.
- 4: Incites revolting immoralities, including rape and murder.
- 5: Causes many accidents, both industrial and vehicular.
- 6: Ruins careers forever.
- 7: Causes insanity as its specialty.
- 8: Either in self-defence or as a means of revenue, users make smokers of others, thus perpetuating evil.

Another fervent supporter of Anslinger was Andrew Melton, the new Finance Minister and uncle to Anslinger's wife. He had strong ties to Du Pont de Nemours, the inventor of Nylon. He wanted to eradicate hemp, because it was in direct competition to the profits from his synthetic fibres. He became the head of the Bureau of Narcotics, which depends on the Minister of Finance. We could have only guessed.

The Bureau's report for 1933 promised a propaganda campaign against marijuana. For a while the propaganda did not take place. Brecher later found that there was little alarm to be taken, because the drug had apparently not been causing harm. Anslinger affirmed that marijuana led to crime and that regular consumption led to degeneration.

For the next seven years, Anslinger conducted meetings, of which no doctor, researcher, or representative of the Black community that formed the greatest number of smokers were invited.

Strong from his first success, Anslinger launched a campaign against jazz which also provoked racial issues. His campaign was full of racism, xenophobia and was founded on enormous lies, which were affirmed by Jean Basile and George Khal.

It was also Anslinger that inspired the movie "Reefer Madness," showing a man killing his whole family after smoking a reefer.

He convinced the whole world with lies and fallacies that marijuana was an evil drug.

It was all this that caused marijuana prohibition to become a reality, even though the British Government concluded that marijuana did not cause mental, physical, or moral injuries.

This was also supported in 1943 by Col. J. M. Phalen, editor of the Military Surgeon, when he declared in an editorial entitled "The Marijuana Bugaboo," that "the smoking of the leaves, flowers, and seeds of Cannabis sativa is no more harmful than that of tobacco.

In 1951 Anslinger became president of the U.S. Drug Commission. He triumphed in 1961 in inscribing cannabis in a unique Convention that regulates drugs on a worldwide level. He was replaced by John Fitzgerald Kennedy and the Congress bent itself on the corruption found in the heart of the Bureau of Narcotics. We have come to understand that the cannabis prohibition originated in personal interests and not for sanitary reasons, with arguments based totally on lies and manipulations.

In 1939 the Mayor of New York, Fiorello La Guardia, set up a committee with the help of the New York Academy of Medicine consisting of twenty-eight doctors, pharmacologists, psychiatrists and sociologists to do scientific tests of cannabis drugs in controlled conditions. The outcome of the enquiry was remarkably similar to that of its predecessors. The Chairman of the committee, Dr. George B. Wallace, wrote that the behaviour of marijuana smokers was ordinarily of a friendly and sociable character.

Aggressiveness and belligerence are not commonly seen. No direct relation had been found between marijuana and crimes of violence. There was no evidence that it was an aphrodisiac. Smoking could be stopped without any resulting mental or physical distress comparable with withdrawal symptoms after opiates; there was no sign that smokers acquired tolerance of its effects, compelling them to take more.

Marijuana does not change the basic personality structure of the individual. No mental or physical deterioration of any kind which could be attributed to it had been diagnosed, even among those who had taken the drug for years. Far from it being a menace, the lessening of inhibitions and repression, the euphoric state, the feeling of adequacy, the freer expression of thoughts and ideas and the increase in appetite for food brought about by marijuana suggest therapeutic possibilities.

The American Medical Association reacted angrily to the implication that it had failed to recognize cannabis potentials. Following the report of the "La Guardia Committee" voices were heard periodically in the United States, suggesting that even if its research had not been perfect, the results had confirmed that there were no known serious hazards from marijuana to the individual or to society.

Anslinger found the proposal intolerable. To block it, he began to advance a new argument, contradicting views he had himself held earlier.

By 1956, when new forms of drug control were being debated, Anslinger realized that he could no longer rely on Congressmen accepting his link between marijuana and

violence. These claims were exploded by the "La Guardia findings." He would have to find some fresh reasons for maintaining prohibition of the drug. Marijuana, he now admitted, was not a 'controlling factor in crime; the real danger was that marijuana, if used over a long period, does lead to heroin addiction. Even though this was another lie, his expert advice was accepted.

During the 1960's, the Hippie generation launched a new worldwide movement in favour of legalisation of cannabis. Its use was encouraged by the Beatles. Mick Jagger and Brian Jones were arrested for possession of cannabis. The Rolling Stones came out with the song "We love you" in response to the law representatives.

When it began to become obvious later in the 1960's that the campaign to stamp out marijuana was not succeeding and that the habit was spreading rapidly throughout the country, particularly among the young, State legislators displayed a new reflex action. They passed laws to intensify enforcement and to increase penalties.

The young were often on marijuana's side, and parents were gradually learning to live with the knowledge that their children were not going to be stopped from breaking the law.

It was also becoming apparent that none of the terrible consequences Anslinger had forecasted were manifesting themselves. Marijuana caused no deaths and no addiction of the kind which afflicted takers of opiates or of alcohol. Neither were its takers more prone to mania, to violence, or to crime than the rest of the community.

In the winter of 1972, the Consumers' Union pronounced 'marijuana is here to stay.' No conceivable law enforcement programme can curb its availability. They called for a new act to introduce orderly controls on cultivation, production and distribution. In 1973 Oregon took a tentative step towards legalization by converting possession of small quantities of marijuana into a 'violation'- comparable to a parking offence-rather than a crime. The Shafer committee reported (to President Nixon's disgust) and recommended that possession of small quantities of marijuana should cease to be a criminal offence. There was nothing to suggest that cannabis was responsible for aggressive social behaviour, crime or ill-health. Physically speaking, it was very much less dangerous than the opiates, amphetamines, barbiturates and also less dangerous than alcohol. Nor was there any evidence that cannabis-takers were led on to take heroin- "it is the personality of the user, rather than the properties of the drug, that is likely to cause progression to other drugs."

Over the past few years, the issue has been endlessly debated-should cannabis be legalized? The record of history suggests that the question should be put the other way round-should cannabis have been banned in the first place? This question can be unequivocally answered- "No."

Prohibition has always failed in free enterprise societies-free that is, to the extent that consumers who have the means can exercise freedom of choice. If they choose drugs, no law can stop them. Prohibition may restrict supplies for a time, but that will only drive up prices and in turn invite crime. The question needs to be re-phrased: not, "shall we legalize?" But, "how shall we legalize?"

Governments have ignored the evidence that prohibition cannot work. The more determined the campaign by governments to stamp out marijuana traffic, the better it suits the traffickers. Prohibition has created new criminals out of people who would not

ordinarily have become law breakers. John M. Murtagh, a judge of the New York Criminal Court, once commented that cannabis law 'corrupts more than it corrects.'

Another judge from the Superior Court of Canada declared that marijuana was not a matter of criminal law, but a matter of health.

Hashish and marijuana have been used by priests and shamans for centuries to get in touch with Spirit. Amongst them are the Rastas from Jamaica and the Church of the Universe, based in Hamilton Ontario, of which I am a member. To us it is a sacrament in the same way wine is to Christians. Our religious rights are taken away through prohibition. That's unconstitutional.

The prohibition of marijuana permits organized criminals to corrupt the worldwide economy.

Marijuana is not responsible for the way people behave! There are over a million people in Canada admitting to smoking marijuana. It is estimated that at least ten million Canadians have smoked it. You cannot possibly smoke marijuana without trafficking it. That means that almost half of the population in Canada are guilty of an offence punishable by up to seven years imprisonment. Isn't that incredible?

If it is our goal to try to create a crimeless society, I think it would only be logical to start by legalizing marijuana.

There are presently almost ten thousand people serving time for marijuana offences. Most of these people are kids, while millions are allowed to walk the streets free. Isn't that ludicrous? The people in prisons for marijuana offences are not there because of the drugs, but because of their criminal records.

Authorities claim that the purpose of prohibition is to improve people's health, morale and welfare. Humbug! Prisons are not a very healthy place to be.

The Auditor General's report on prohibition confirms that over three hundred million dollars of taxpayers' money is being spent on cannabis prohibition strategies alone. Another five hundred million is being spent on keeping those convicted of marijuana related offences in prisons. That's not including the salaries for the judges, lawyers and crown attorneys to prosecute the cases.

Over seventy percent of Canadians want to see marijuana completely legalized. Why does our Canadian government not listen to the voices of its people?

Those who don't want to see marijuana legalized are mostly police officers, politicians and legislators. Well, of course! They are all getting a share of the almost one billion dollars a year of taxpayer's money.

The people of Canada are tired of having their tax dollars wasted on prohibition strategies and incarcerations. We could use that money for better purposes.

The marijuana prohibition was introduced by Harry J. Anslinger with lies of which he personally admitted to and with a deep repugnance for marijuana of which were never justified. His actions were wrong, selfish and unwarranted. Anslinger corrupted our society with his prohibition. The damage has been done and it has to be repaired. There is only one way to do that and it's through the legalization of cannabis for any purpose.

Marijuana can never be eliminated because it's in more or less an endless supply.

Let's end the war on drugs. War is an evil thing. No war of any kind is good. We need peace, love and harmony-not war.

By legalizing drugs, the black market would collapse, and it would end the reign of terror caused by the battle for control by organized crime.

John Haley, an American Legal Scholar who directs the Asian Law Program at the University of Seattle, pointed out that the view of Western Societies is that whatever is wrong should be illegal, and whatever is illegal must also be “wrong.” It is this very belief that has caused the criminalization of drugs. Society has been brainwashed by Harry J. Anslinger and others like him into believing that drug use must be penalized. Apparently it is our moral duty to do so.

According to Louk Hulsman, a Dutch Criminologist, law is conventional. It may indict things that are not wrong and fail to indict things that are wrong.

The charter of Rights and Freedom, states in part ‘1’ that Canada is founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God and the rule of law. It is well documented that the majority of Canadians claim to be strong believers in God. If this is true and men disagree on whether marijuana should be legal or not, then we have to deal with this problem according to scripture.

First of all the marijuana prohibition is a big money industry. Taxpayers are being used to enrich the authorities and its’ employees. The Bible says in Timothy 6:10 that the “love” of money is the root of all evil. Now what does the Bible say about the cultivation and consumption of marijuana?

In the New International Version of the Bible, in Genesis 1:11, 12, and 29 to 31 it says: “then God said, let the land produce vegetation; seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seeds in it, according to their various kinds, and it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit, with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.” These plants with seeds according to their kinds included “cannabis.” God was the first One to create cannabis and He saw that it was “good.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground-every thing that has the breath of life in it-I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw all that He had made and it was “very good.”

Now do you think God would produce cannabis and give it to us for food and then prohibit us to do the same? Even your earthly father wouldn’t do such a thing.

In the New King James Version of the Bible, in Mark 7, a group of Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law called Scribes came together to Jesus and started complaining to Him that His disciples were not following the traditions of the elders. In this particular case it was concerning eating food without washing their hands and the washing of pitchers and cups.

Jesus called them all “hypocrites.” In verse 6 to 9, He answered them and said that Isaiah prophesied about them. “These people honour Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandments of God, you hold the tradition of men-the washing of pitchers and cups and ‘many’ other such things you do.”

He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandments of God, that you may keep your tradition.”

In verses 14 to 23, He continued: When He called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, *Hear Me everyone and understand: There is nothing that enters a man from*

outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. If anyone has *ears* to *hear* let him *hear*!”

When He had entered a house away from the crowd, his disciples asked Him concerning the parable. So He said to them, “Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that *whatever* enters a man from the outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods.”

And He said “What comes out of a man that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride and foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

Now *defilement* means to *pollute* or to *corrupt*. *Corruption* comes from the way we think, feel and act; not by putting something in our bodies.

Prohibition is corrupting our society, because it is bad thinking.

CONCLUSION

For hundreds of years doctors, psychiatrists, pharmacologists, sociologists, and experimenters, through committees and commissions, have found no evidence that marijuana was harmful, dangerous, menacing, hazardous, or had any adverse effects on human beings. It causes no moral, social, mental or physical injuries. It causes no serious threats, it is not habit forming. It does not lead to crime or to harder drugs and has never caused any deaths. As a matter of fact, it is desirable, pleasurable and has many beneficial qualities.

God says that it is *not bad* or *wrong*. It is certainly not evil or criminal because as John Haley pointed out, *whatever is illegal must also be wrong*.

I see no reason why we should not legalize marijuana. Prohibition itself corrupts our society. Just because Harry J. Anslinger was filled with a deep repugnance for marijuana because he never forgot the sound of a woman's screams of agony caused by her opium addiction did not give him the right to manipulate the whole world, through lies and false accusations to ban marijuana.

I don't believe that Anslinger acted out alone in this marijuana prohibition. I believe that he conspired first with his wife's uncle because marijuana competed with his nylon invention and with others whose sole intentions were to build financial empires while unintentionally corrupting our society through prohibition.

Considering all factors involved during my *research* in this matter, I find ample evidence that all marijuana laws should be completely wiped out of the criminal code of Canada.

I say *let's legalize*. It's only proper to do so. After all, it should have *never* been banned in the first place.

Kazakoff, Laura

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 4:51 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: Regarding... Public Hearing on Vancouver Medical Marijuana Dispensary Rules

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

From: justin james s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 4:50 PM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: Regarding... Public Hearing on Vancouver Medical Marijuana Dispensary Rules

Hello Vancouver Council,

I am emailing you on behalf of myself and Heidi Price the owners of suite s.22(1) Personal and Confidential to lodge a complaint regarding the illegal prescription mill and marijuana dealing storefront that has set up shop in a ground floor unit of our building. We were unable to attend today's public hearing but would like to voice our concerns regarding our situation.

First I would like to point out the marijuana dealers secured a lease under false pretenses. They claimed they would be setting up a chiropractor's office. Instead they have set up a drug dealing storefront under the name The Healing Tree.

Even though they have only been open a week or so, we have already noticed marijuana smoke wafting from their offices several times. This was noticed from both the entrance of our building and inside the common ground floor hallway.

Their sandwich board out front advertises that they have a doctor available inside, and lists off several minor ailments that you can claim to get your prescription on site. This is basically a prescription mill, where no adult with money is turned away. I have attached a photo.

It is my understanding that none of the marijuana or marijuana based products sold at The Healing Tree come from registered growers or suppliers. Since the illegal marijuana industry is financed and controlled largely by the organized crime gangs, we no longer feel safe in our home. What is to stop our building from becoming a battleground should the dealers below have a disagreement with the criminals supplying them? How do we know that The Healing Tree itself is not owned in part by gang members or those connected with them? We have several children in this building including a newborn. This is completely and utterly unacceptable.

Last but not least we are in the process of renovating our condo for sale next year. It has taken 12 years, but we have managed to build a small amount of equity in our home. We have spoken to several real estate agents regarding the effect of having a prescription mill and marijuana dealer running a storefront in our building, and they all have expressed concern that it will greatly de value our property.

We are very sympathetic to the legitimate medical use of marijuana. I would go so far to say that we both support the legalization for recreational use. We are also not Not-In-My-Backyard type of people, you just can't be that way when you live in the downtown eastside. For example we were very supportive of the application and eventual construction of the women's shelter apartment next to us. But this drug dealing operation is not legitimate, is completely unregulated, and almost assuredly supplied by or tied to organized crime.

I hope you act and act quickly to shut operations such as the one that lied its way into our building down. I assure you I and many other will not passively sit by much longer.

I look forward to hearing how the Vancouver Council plans to address this issue and our situation.

Sincerely,

Justin James

From: Darcy @ Erbachay s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 5:33 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Comments on Medical Marijuana-related Use Permit
Attachments: Yes to FAIR Regulations, Response.pdf; School Distance Calculations Vancouver.pdf; School Distance Calculations Denver.pdf; School Distance Calculations Seattle.pdf; School Distance Calculations.pdf

Please see the attached PDFs for our comments and supporting documents.

- Hello my name is Darcy Delaine and I am with Erbachay Health Centers.
- **Our position is: Yes, but to Fair Regulation**
- **Thank you for taking steps towards this landmark policy with respect to regulating Cannabis sales.**
- It takes courage and foresight to implement policies that are new.
- I imagine your job is not an easy one which requires you to balance the needs and fears of your constituents.
- Today, I have the privilege and responsibility of directly representing the 700 members of Erbachay Health Centers.
- Our average age is 47 and ranges from 20 to 83 years old
- We are;
 - Employees
 - Business owners
 - Retirees
 - Senior citizens, Grand Parents

- Mothers and Fathers
- In other words we are hard working regular people,
all Fighting health issues like Cancer, MS, Epilepsy, Pain and Suffering.
- Canadians are looking towards Vancouver for leadership and we would like to offer suggestions to help establish a framework that will stand the test of time and fairness.
- We kindly offer the following suggestions;

School Distance Rules

- The proposed regulations are drafted on the basis of what Colorado and Washington have done at 300m except that **Vancouver has 2.1 and 2.6 times more schools per square km than Seattle and Denver** respectively and on that basis it would be equivalent to having the distance at 145m to 117m. We simply have more schools per square kilometer than the Americans.
- **We recommend the distance from schools be reduced to 145m and that a 300m line of sight restriction be implemented.**

This would protect children from daily visual exposure and still allow dispensaries to exist and foster competition.

- If a person is found guilty of selling cannabis directly to minors then charge the person who committed the crime, but to prejudge all dispensaries as harmful to children is just discrimination based on fear.
- Competition is good. With competition we end up with higher quality service, more choices and lower prices.
- Without fair competition we are subject to the opposite. Does anyone like the lack of choices in cell phone service plans in Canada or the price of gasoline?
- NO!

Licence Fees

- Is this \$30,000/year fair?

Other businesses in Vancouver pay the following.

Business Type	Fees	Dispensary to Other Business Ratio
Casinos:	\$11,662/year	3
Financial Institutions (Banks):	\$1,364/year	22
Restaurant with Liquor Service:	\$700/year	43
Liquor Retail Stores:	\$372/year	81
Pharmacies:	\$133/year	226

- The fee has been justified as the increased expense the city will incur to regulate these businesses.
- Are dispensaries
 - o 3 times more expensive than Casinos,
 - o 22 times more expensive than Banks to regulate and protect,
 - o 43 times more expensive to do health inspections of than Restaurants,
 - o 81 times more expensive to regulate than Liquor stores or
 - o 226 times more expensive to regulate than Pharmacies?
- This is unfair and discriminatory if not simply excessive.

- We recommend for dispensaries with no on site consumption a fee of **\$133/year** as this is what Pharmacies are assessed for providing similar **services**. In fact pharmacies are at higher risk of crime due to the value of the addictive products they dispense.
- For dispensaries with consumption on site, charge an additional fee of **\$700/year** plus the same per seat fees as the **Restaurants with Liquor Services**. This is justified as providing a similar service requiring increased health inspections of a similar degree.

Mixed Businesses and No ATM Machines

- The current proposal will disallow other businesses like ATM machines to be present.
- ATM machines are a convenience and safety measure for members of a dispensary so that they do not need to carry cash and be at risk on the street.
- Asking a disabled person to carry cash to get their medication is not the best way to care for the disadvantaged.
- **An exception should be made for ATM machines that serve their membership. Disallowing outside advertising of ATM machines and limiting access to, “members only”, will protect the disadvantaged and restrict criminal activity.**

No Delivery

- Even Health Canada allows delivery and for many patients who are disabled this is a service that they require to obtain medication.
- **We propose that delivery be allowed but only during normal business hours to protect the employees of dispensaries.**

In conclusion, we support regulation to improve the health and safety of the public and trust that City Council will implement a **fair** and historic policy.

Your valuable time and efforts are greatly appreciated.



Erbachay Health Centers
Premium Cannabis
8425 Granville Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6P 4Z9
(778) 737-0010

- Hello my name is Darcy Delaine and I am with Erbachay Health Centers.
- **Our position is: Yes, but to Fair Regulation**
- Thank you for taking steps towards this landmark policy with respect to regulating Cannabis sales.
- It takes courage and foresight to implement policies that are new.
- I imagine your job is not an easy one which requires you to balance the needs and fears of your constituents.
- Today, I have the privilege and responsibility of directly representing the 700 members of Erbachay Health Centers.
- Our average age is 47 and ranges from 20 to 83 years old
- We are;
 - Employees
 - Business owners
 - Retirees
 - Senior citizens, Grand Parents
 - Mothers and Fathers
 - In other words we are hard working regular people, all Fighting health issues like Cancer, MS, Epilepsy, Pain and Suffering.
- Canadians are looking towards Vancouver for leadership and we would like to offer suggestions to help establish a framework that will stand the test of time and **fairness**.
- We kindly offer the following suggestions;

School Distance Rules

- The proposed regulations are drafted on the basis of what Colorado and Washington have done at 300m except that **Vancouver has 2.1 and 2.6 times more schools per square km than Seattle and Denver** respectively and on that basis it would be equivalent to having the distance at 145m to 117m. We simply have more schools per square kilometer than the Americans.
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- Without fair competition we are subject to the opposite. Does anyone like the lack of choices in cell phone service plans in Canada or the price of gasoline?
- **NO!**

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Erbarchay Health Centers
Premium Cannabis

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Vancouver School Summary

Elementary Schools	77
Elementary Annex Schools	16
Secondary Schools	9
Total Schools	102
Land Area	114.97 km ²
School Density	0.887188 Schools/km ²
School Area	1.127157 Km ² /School
School Radius	1.8818 km/School

Elementary Schools

Admiral Seymour
Bayview
Britannia Elementary
Captain James Cook
Carnarvon
Champlain Heights
Charles Dickens
Chief Maquinna
David Livingstone
David Lloyd George
David Oppenheimer
Dr. A.R. Lord
Dr. Annie B. Jamieson
Dr. George M. Weir
Dr. H.N. MacCorkindale
Dr. R.E. McKechnie
Edith Cavell
Elsie Roy
Emily Carr
False Creek
Florence Nightingale
General Brock
General Gordon
General Wolfe
George T. Cunningham
Graham D Bruce
Grandview
Hastings
Henry Hudson
J.W. Sexsmith
John Henderson
John Norquay
Jules Quesnel
Kerrisdale
L'Ecole Bilingue
Laura Secord
Lord Beaconsfield
Lord Kitchener
Lord Nelson
Lord Roberts
Lord Selkirk
Lord Strathcona
Lord Tennyson
Maple Grove
Mount Pleasant

[Nootka](#)
Norma Rose Point School
[Pierre Elliott Trudeau](#)
[Queen Alexandra](#)
[Queen Elizabeth](#)
[Queen Mary](#)
Quilchena
Renfrew
[Shaughnessy Elementary School](#)
Simon Fraser
[Sir Alexander Mackenzie](#)
Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith
[Sir Guy Carleton](#)
[Sir James Douglas](#)
Sir John Franklin
Sir Matthew Begbie
Sir Richard McBride
[Sir Sandford Fleming](#)
Sir Wilfred Grenfell
Sir Wilfrid Laurier
Sir William MacDonald
Sir William Osler
[Sir William Van Horne](#)
Southlands
Tecumseh
Thunderbird
Trafalgar
Tyee
University Hill Elementary
[Vancouver Learning Network Elementary](#)
Walter Moberly
Waverley

Elementary Annex Schools

Champlain Heights Annex
Charles Dickens Annex
Collingwood Neighbourhood (Bruce Annex)
Garibaldi Annex
Henderson Annex
Kerrisdale Annex
Maquinna Annex
McBride Annex
Queen Elizabeth Annex
Queen Victoria (Nelson Annex)
Roberts Annex
Selkirk Annex
Sir James Douglas Annex
Sir Wilfrid Laurier Annex
Tecumseh Annex
Tillicum Annex

Secondary Schools

[Britannia Secondary](#)
[David Thompson](#)
[Eric Hamber](#)
[Gladstone](#)
[John Oliver](#)
[Killarney](#)
[King George](#)
[Kitsilano](#)
[Lord Byng](#)

Denver Colorado School Summary

Elementary Schools	76
K-8	15
Middle Schools, Grades 6–8	20
High Schools, Grades 9–12	23
Total Schools	134

Land Area	400 km2
School Density	0.335 Schools/km2
School Area	2.985075 Km2/School
School Radius	3.0623 km/School

Elementary schools

[Academia Ana Marie Sandoval](#)
[Armesse](#)
[Archuleta](#)
[Asbury](#)
[Ashley](#)
[Barnum](#)
[Barrett](#)
[Beach Court](#)
[Bradley International School](#)
[Bromwell](#)
[Brown International Academy](#)
[Carson](#)
[Castro](#)
[Cheltenham](#)
[CMS Community School](#)
[Colfax](#)
[College View](#)
[Columbian](#)
[Columbine](#)
[Cory](#)
[Cowell](#)
[DCIS at Ford](#)
[Denison Montessori](#)
[Dough](#)
[Eagleton](#)
[Edison](#)
[Ellis](#)
[Escalante-Biggs Academy](#)
[Fairview](#)
[Force](#)
[Ford](#)
[Garden Place](#)
[Gilpin Montessori Public School](#)
[Godsman](#)
[Goldrick](#)
[Green Valley Ranch](#)
[Greenlee](#)
[Gust](#)
[Hallett Fundamental Academy](#)
[Harrington](#)
[Holm](#)
[Johnson](#)
[Kaiser](#)
[Knapp](#)
[Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy ES](#)
[Lincoln Elementary](#)
[Lowry](#)
[Marrama](#)
[Math and Science Leadership Academy](#)
[Maxwell](#)
[McGlone](#)
[McKinley-Thatcher](#)
[McMeen](#)
[Montclair School of Academics & Enrichment](#)
[Munroe](#)
[Newlon](#)
[Oakland](#)
[Palmer](#)
[Park Hill](#)
[Polaris Program at Ebert](#)
[Sabin World School](#)
[Samuels](#)
[Schmitt](#)

[Smith Renaissance School of the Arts](#)
[Southmoor](#)
[Steck](#)
[Stedman](#)
[Steele](#)
[Swansea](#)
[Swigert - McAuliffe International School](#)
[Teller](#)
[Traylor Academy](#)
[University Park](#)
[Valdez](#)
[Valverde](#)
[Westerly Creek](#)

Middle schools

[Bruce Randolph Middle School](#)
[DCIS at Montbello MS](#)
[Denver Center For International Studies MS](#)
[Denver Discovery School](#)
[Denver School of the Arts MS](#)
[Grant Beacon MS](#)
[Hamilton](#)
[Henry World School](#)
[Hill Middle School Campus of Arts & Sciences](#)
[Kepner](#)
[Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy MS](#)
[Lake International School](#)
[Lake Middle School](#)
[Martin Luther King, Jr. Early College MS](#)
[Merrill](#)
[Morev](#)
[Noel Community Arts School MS](#)
[Rachel B. Noel](#)
[Skinner](#)
[Smiley](#)

High schools

[Aden Jones high school](#)
[Abraham Lincoln](#)
[Bruce Randolph High School](#)
[CFC Middle College of Denver](#)
[Collegiate Preparatory Academy](#)
[DCIS at Montbello HS](#)
[Denver Center For International Studies HS](#)
[Denver Online High School](#)
[Denver School of the Arts HS](#)
[East](#)
[George Washington](#)
[High Tech Early College](#)
[John F. Kennedy](#)
[Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy HS](#)
[Manual](#)
[Martin Luther King Jr. Early College HS](#)
[Montbello](#)
[Noel Community Arts School HS](#)
[North](#)
[\[1\]](#)
[Terrance Howard High School Thhs](#)
[Thomas Jefferson](#)
[West](#)

K-8

[Bryant-Webster Dual Language](#)
[Centennial](#)
[Cole Arts & Science Academy](#)
[Denver Green School](#)
[Dora Moore](#)
[Fairmont Dual Language Immersion Academy](#)
[Farrell B. Howell](#)
[Florida Pitt Waller](#)
[Grant Ranch](#)
[Greenwood](#)
[Place Bridge Academy](#)
[Slavans](#)
[Trevista at Horace Mann](#)
[Whittier](#)
[William Roberts](#)

Seattle Washington School Summary

Elementary Schools	58
K-8	10
Middle Schools, Grades 6–8	9
High Schools, Grades 9–12	13
Total Schools	90
Land Area	217.2 km2
School Density	0.414365 Schools/km2
School Area	2.413333 Km2/School
School Radius	2.7535 km/School

Elementary Schools

School	Est.[A]	Neighborhood ^[B]	Nickname	'11-'12 Enrollment
Adams	<u>1889[a]</u>	<u>Ballard</u>	Eagles	473
Alki	<u>1913[b]</u>	<u>Alki</u>	Seagulls	355
Arbor Heights		<u>Arbor Heights</u>		363
Daniel Bagley		<u>Green Lake</u>		393
Beacon Hill Int'l		<u>Beacon Hill</u>		452
Bryant		<u>Ravenna</u>		548
Frantz Coe		<u>Queen Anne</u>		423
Concord Int'l		<u>South Park</u>		391
B.F. Day		<u>Fremont</u>		321
Dearborn Park		<u>Beacon Hill</u>		309
Dunlap		<u>Dunlap</u>		364
Emerson		<u>Rainier Beach</u>		324
Gatewood		<u>Gatewood</u>		484
Bailey Gatzert		<u>Atlantic</u>		371
<u>Graham Hill</u>	1960	<u>Seward Park</u>		388
Green Lake		<u>Green Lake</u>		
Greenwood	1909	<u>Greenwood</u>	Stars	332
<u>Hawthorne[c]</u>	<u>1913[d]</u>	<u>Mount Baker</u>	none	296
John Hay		<u>Queen Anne</u>		530
Highland Park	1919	<u>Delridge</u>	Mustangs	434
<u>Kimball[e]</u>	1971	<u>North Beacon Hill</u>	Cougars	471
K-5 Stem at Boren	2012	<u>Delridge</u>		
Lafayette	<u>1893[f]</u>	<u>North Admiral</u>	Leopards	547
Laurelhurst		<u>Laurelhurst</u>		420
<u>Lawton[g]</u>	<u>1913[h]</u>	<u>Magnolia</u>	Dolphins	440
Leschi		<u>Leschi</u>		378
<u>Lowell</u>		<u>Capitol Hill</u>		616
Loyal Heights		<u>Ballard</u>		401

Maple		<u>Beacon Hill</u>		480
Thurgood Marshall		<u>Atlantic</u>		451
Martin Luther King Jr.		<u>Brighton</u>		349
McDonald		<u>Wallingford</u>		187
McGilvra		<u>Madison Park</u>		298
Montlake		<u>Montlake</u>		238
John Muir		<u>Mount Baker</u>		404
North Beach		<u>Ballard</u>		315
Northgate		<u>Northgate</u>		231
Olympic Hills		<u>Olympic Hills</u>		267
Olympic View	1903	<u>Maple Leaf</u>	Eagles	469
Queen Anne		<u>Queen Anne</u>		223
John Rogers		<u>Meadowbrook</u>		247
Rainier View	1953	<u>Rainier Valley</u>	Tigers	169
Roxhill		<u>Roxhill</u>		377
Sacajawea		<u>Maple Leaf</u>		260
Sand Point		<u>Windermere</u>		202
Sanislo		<u>Riverview</u>		302
Schmitz Park		<u>North Admiral</u>		463
John Stanford Int'l		<u>Wallingford</u>		460
Stevens		<u>Capitol Hill</u>		371
Thornton Creek		<u>Wedgwood</u>		371
Van Asselt	<u>1907[i]</u>	<u>South Beacon Hill</u>		532
Viewlands		<u>Broadview</u>		176
View Ridge		<u>View Ridge</u>		
Wedgwood		<u>Wedgwood</u>		446
West Seattle		<u>West Seattle</u>		406
West Woodland		<u>Phinney Ridge</u>		473
Whittier		<u>Ballard</u>		460
Wing Luke	<u>1967[ii]</u>	<u>South Beacon Hill</u>	Dragons	351

Grades K–8 Schools

School	Est.[C]	Location ^[D]	Nickname	'11-'12 Enrollment
Jane Addams	2009	<u>Meadowbrook</u>	Wolves	362
Catharine Blaine	1998	<u>Magnolia</u>	Tigers	414
Broadview-Thomson	2008	<u>Broadview</u>	Bulldogs	490
Madrona	2000	<u>Madrona</u>	Panthers	213
Orca	1989	<u>Seward Park</u>		317
Pathfinder	1994	<u>Delridge</u>		337

Pinehurst	1984	<u>Pinehurst</u>	Wolverines	62
Salmon Bay	1999	<u>Ballard</u>	Panthers	263
<u>South Shore</u>		<u>Rainier Beach</u>	Sea	
Tops	1976	<u>Eastlake</u>	Dragons	368
			Falcons	322

Ref:[2]

Middle Schools, Grades 6–8

School	Est.[E]	Location ^[F]	Nickname	'11-'12 Enrollment
<u>Denny Int'l</u>	<u>1952</u> [k]	<u>West Seattle</u>	Dolphins	861
<u>Eckstein</u>	1950	Bryant/Wedgwood	Eagles	1,278
Hamilton Int'l	1927	<u>Wallingford</u>	Hawks	919
<u>Aki Kurose</u>	1952	<u>Columbia City</u>	Peace	658
Madison	1929	<u>West Seattle</u>	Cranes	828
McClure	1964	<u>Queen Anne</u>	Bulldogs	483
Mercer	1957	<u>Beacon Hill</u>	Mustangs	924
Washington	1978	<u>Central District</u>	Mustangs Junior	924
Whitman	1959	<u>Blue Ridge</u>	Huskies	1,123
			Wildcats	983

Ref:[2]

High Schools, Grades 9–12

School	Est.[G]	Location ^[H]	Nickname	'11-'12 Enrollment
<u>Ballard</u>	<u>1903</u> [l]	<u>Ballard</u>	Beavers	1,636
		<u>Lower Queen Anne</u>		
The Center School	2001	<u>(Seattle Center)</u>	Dragons	278
<u>Chief Sealth</u>	1967	<u>West Seattle</u>	Seahawks	1,239
<u>Cleveland</u>	1927	<u>Beacon Hill</u>	Eagles	822
<u>Franklin</u>	1912	<u>Mount Baker</u>	Quakers	1,415
<u>Garfield</u>	1920	<u>Central District</u>	Bulldogs	1,918
<u>Nathan Hale</u>	1963	<u>Meadowbrook</u>	Raiders	1,129
<u>Ingraham</u>	1959	<u>Haller Lake</u>	Rams	1,029
<u>Nova</u>	1970	<u>Capitol Hill</u>		345
<u>Rainier Beach</u>	1960	<u>Rainier Beach</u>	Vikings	448
<u>Roosevelt</u>	1922	<u>Roosevelt</u>	Rough Riders	1,742
South Lake	<u>2009</u> [m]	<u>Rainier Beach</u>	Blue Sharks	143
<u>West Seattle</u>	1917	<u>West Seattle</u>	Wildcats	1,361

Comparison of School Densities

		Vancouver, BC	Seattle, WA	Denver, CO
Total Schools		102	90	134
Land Area	km2	115	217	400
School Density	Schools/km2	0.89	0.41	0.34
School Density Ratio Relative to Vancouver		100%	47%	38%

Vancouver School Density Relative to Other Cities		2.1	2.6
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School Area	Km2/School	1.1	2.4	3.0
School Radius	km/School	1.88	2.75	3.06

Kazakoff, Laura

From: Carole Shindell
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 6:06 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: Regulation of retail dealers medical marijuana

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Dear Mayor and council

I have used medical cannabis for 10 yrs and have been a member of VDS for 4 yr. Medical cannabis has help me for migraine headaches which we're very debilitating, and less expensive then prescription drugs also depression and IBS. My quality of life is so much better and more productive. I also use edibles at night for sleep and when smoking cannabis is not an option. I am not opposed to regulating dispensaries in fact it my help to separate the medical dispensaries from the recreational ones. My dispensary provides a safe environment with knowledgeable staff and a variety of products. Please continue to allow the medical dispensaries to provide a much needed service.

Thank you for your time.

Carole

Sent from my iPod

Kazakoff, Laura

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 12:41 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: Regulation of Medical Marijuana-Related Retailers - number of patients

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

From: Rielle Capler s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2015 11:29 PM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: Regulation of Medical Marijuana-Related Retailers - number of patients

Dear Mayor and Council,

I'm writing to address the question of Councillor Meggs regarding the number of medical cannabis patients in Vancouver.

The numbers shown in the slides of about 40,000 patients (with about half in British Columbia) was based on the number of authorized patients under the MMAR (federal cannabis regulations). Currently, there are about 20,000 patients registered with licensed producers under the new regulations (MMPR). It is estimated that those numbers will increase to 450,000 by 2024.

The number of currently authorized users, however, represents a small fraction of the potentially one million medical cannabis users in Canada. A survey conducted in 2004 suggested that as many as one million Canadians use cannabis for medical purposes. The Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey for 2011 found 1.6% of Canadians aged 15 years and over (~ 420,000) reported using cannabis in the past year for medical purposes. Studies show as many as 37% people living with HIV/AIDS, 21% of people with epilepsy, 16% of people with multiple sclerosis, and 10% of people living with chronic pain use cannabis to help manage their symptoms .

A large national survey of medical cannabis users revealed few differences between MMAR authorized and unauthorized patients with regards to their disease status, severity of symptoms, and patterns of medical cannabis use. This suggests that these programs are leaving many qualified patients without legal authorization and using non-legal sources - including dispensaries - putting them at risk of legal sanction and possible stigma. Previous research found patients experienced obstacles to access under the MMAR including obtaining the necessary documentation from a physician, problems with the medical cannabis supply options, and the high cost associated with access.

Studies have also showed that most (approx 75%) authorized patients use dispensaries, as well as the legal sources available to them. Part of the reason for this is their preference for the products and services offered by dispensaries.

With the current proliferation of dispensaries, it is difficult to estimate how many patients/people they are serving. Estimates from a few years ago were about 60,000 across Canada. Each dispensary has a roster of their own patients, so once we get a handle on the dispensaries that are operating and once they are licensed, we'll be able to get a count from each of them. There is likely overlap between dispensaries, with some patients utilizing more than one dispensaries in order to access different products and services available, or for convenience.

Best regards,
Rielle Capler

Kazakoff, Laura

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 2:18 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: Citizen Feedback- s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

From: 311 Operations
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 10:16 AM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: Citizen Feedback- s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Hello there,

Please kindly review the below citizen feedback.

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, 09:33:00 AM

Incident Location

Address: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Address2:

Location name:

Contact Details

Name: Poulsen, Sheri

Address: s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Address2:

Phone:

Alt. Phone:

Request Details

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

Wanted to state opinion/complaint about operations of grow ops. Transcribed below.

I'm not against the use of pot, as I feel that it should be regulated and legal, but under proper supervision, such as medical uses. I am concerned about a number of factors. For example the location here employs very young workers. When I approached them, they were quite juvenile and I am worried that the proper process of ID and age verification is not being followed. Signage for this shop is also prominent, and usually blocking a crosswalk. The signs are all over the street, and children frequently walk to school and the community centre here. A lot of noise also comes from cars parking in our residential areas with loud music playing while they run in and out of the shop.

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential



Additional Details

