

Isfeld, Lori

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 2:10 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: Opposition to Marijuana Dispensaries - Chinese Freemasons

From: Chinese Freemasons s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 1:08 PM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Subject: Opposition to Marijuana Dispensaries - Chinese Freemasons

June 22, 2015

Mayor Gregor Robertson and
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Re: Proposed Regulation of Marijuana Dispensaries in Vancouver

Dear Mayor and Council,

On behalf of the Chinese Freemasons, which was founded in 1863 and has long been serving Vancouver's Chinatown and the Chinese Community in Vancouver, I am writing to express our opposition to the recommendations by the City regarding the regulations of retail dealers of medical marijuana.

The recommendations call for allowing marijuana dispensaries on major streets like Hastings and Main Streets, which run adjacent and through Chinatown respectively. Chinatown, a historic and cultural landmark, has already been negatively impacted by the drug culture of Downtown East Side. Having marijuana dispensaries nearby will further erode our efforts to preserve and revitalize our community. Using of drugs like marijuana is completely against the cultural value of Vancouverites of Chinese origin, not to mention it is illegal to run such operations according to federal law.

I urge that City Council help us protect and grow Chinatown by disallowing marijuana dispensaries in our neighbourhood, and enforcing existing federal laws that prohibit such businesses.

Sincerely,

Hilbert Yiu
President
Chinese Freemasons of Vancouver



June 15, 2015

Mayor Gregor Robertson and Councillors
City of Vancouver
453 West 12th Ave.
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Dunbar Village Business Association represents approximately 140 businesses and property owners on Dunbar Street between 16th and 41st Avenues and on 41st Avenue between Dunbar Street and Collingwood Street including adjacent side streets.

The Board of Directors of the DVBA, on behalf of its members, wishes to express its strong concern with the rapid proliferation of illegal medical marijuana dispensaries throughout the City of Vancouver and the resulting negative consequences on the city's business districts. These dispensaries have been allowed to proliferate despite operating illegally and without the proper licences and permits and standards that the City of Vancouver requires for all legitimate businesses.

The Board requests that City of Vancouver bylaws be implemented without prejudice and that all businesses wanting to operate within the City be required to comply with federal and provincial law in addition to municipal bylaws. The DVBA Board is calling on the City of Vancouver to immediately close all operations that are in violation. The Board feels that the City is not in a position to regulate what is at present illegal.

When the Federal Government amends their legislation to permit retail businesses to purchase legal supplies of marijuana and to sell or distribute to persons who are legally permitted to possess marijuana, then the DVBA would like to be consulted regarding proposed policies to regulate such operations to ensure a healthy business mix, safety and neighbourhood viability.

Yours truly,

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

Lisa Clement
Executive Director
Dunbar Village Business Association

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential