

Isfeld, Lori

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2015 10:45 AM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: I am unable to attend the Wednesday meeting but wished to make a few points regarding the pot shop concerns:

From: Lynda s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Tuesday, June 09, 2015 10:25 AM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: I am unable to attend the Wednesday meeting but wished to make a few points regarding the pot shop concerns:

I do appreciate and acknowledge the need for some element of medicinal pot use. There are legitimate needs for treatment of seizures and pain. But there can't be a need for all those pot shops in the area where I live and shop on West Broadway/West Fourth.

I have friends and acquaintances who have bought at various "dispensaries" throughout the city with the flimsiest "medical" notes issued from questionable referrals. I have seen/heard about too many "end runs" with regard to legal and responsible manner of pot use (even when I point out that the THC is much more than decades ago, I am told that "well... we just need to smoke less". This city is not a place of moderation in any sense, food, drink and so on. Human nature doesn't work that way.) Some of these acquaintances are buying on behalf of their adult children as well as neighbours. In other words, it is like the wild west of dispensing and purchasing. Regulation doesn't work well. Washington state, for example, now has a black market in addition to their legalized venue (as per Globe and Mail article April 6, 2015 by-line Gary Mason).

My daughters and I have to walk past these shops in order to grocery shop and so on. My daughters and I do not feel well (nauseous) with the odour emanating from these places despite the doors being closed but especially from those smoking out in the open. (4-20 day isn't only at the Art Gallery... teenagers have taken that day as an excuse to smoke anywhere eg Heather Park at 19th & Heather right near tennis court and playground areas.) Even though legally, one is not supposed to smoke pot out in the open, too often I find that is not the case. My daughters and I are "prisoners" to the second hand smoke as we walk along the streets including bus stops and so on by those who act as though since it was so easy to purchase, then it must be okay to light up soon after purchases anywhere anytime (while waiting for the bus, walking back to their residences nearby which at times is by schools, beaches and so on). Too many have little community respect.

It is rather ironic that the city makes such a concerted effort about cigarette smoking in public areas and on beaches etc. yet with this proliferation of pot shops, I am finding it difficult to enjoy walking in the city with constant second hand pot smoke which makes my daughters and I feel nauseous.

The city aspires to be a green, healthy city. I did not anticipate that "green" would be in the context of cannabis and end up impinging on the lives of those who don't feel well or do not enjoy second hand pot smoke or odours from these shops.

Thank you for your time and kind attention to this email.

Yours truly,
Lynda Griffin and family



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June 8, 2015

CITY OF VANCOUVER
453 West 12 Avenue
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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 by the community and the City through Historic Area Height Review, the Chinatown Neighbourhood Plan and the Chinatown Economic Revitalization Strategy Plan to revitalize Chinatown will be reversed by legitimizing and encouraging illegal drug use in the heart of Chinatown as an approved location for dispensaries.

All the hard work by the Community, City Council and City staff will be wasted if all of the City's woes continue to be piled on into the neighbourhood. The Hastings street market, the open drug use, the open drug dealing and now a City sponsored plan to concentrate marijuana dispensaries in the neighbourhood all contribute to a sense of civic disorder that even the most aggressive and well-funded marketing and revitalization programs cannot dispel.

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,

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Confidential

Willie Chan,
President,
Vancouver Chinatown Merchants Association