

**Isfeld, Lori**

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 9:18 AM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: Dispensary Hearings

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**From:** Diana Purkis s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2015 5:39 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Dispensary Hearings

To the Mayor and City Council,

I have attended all three of the recent dispensary hearings and hoped to be able to present but I am No 198 and you still have not reached that number. Unfortunately I cannot be there tomorrow night but would still like to voice my opinions so this is what I had planned to tell you:

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential I felt that I would like to come here and share some of my personal experiences with you. I would also like to thank the various councilors who have come to visit us and s.22(1) Personal and give them a tour around so they could see for themselves the great work we do to help sick people and I hope one day Mr Mayor you will come as well!

*I'm probably the most conservative person you've seen on this side of the fence, when I started work there I had never even tried cannabis, I just didn't feel the need for it and am still not a user. I read up about medicinal cannabis on various websites including ours and so I thought this would be a whole new experience, it definitely has been, but I was still totally unprepared for all the amazing stories that I have heard over the years as to how cannabis has changed their lives for the better, but is also the most rewarding thing I have done in my life and I feel everyone who needs cannabis to help with their illness should be able to have it. It can be a tough job, lots of multi tasking, masses of phone calls with people pleading for me to help them with their pain etc, many others pleading for help with finding a Doctor who will agree to refer them. Sometimes I have hated Hilary Black for calling us a "Compassion Club " as I sometimes get it thrown back at me as in "Why can't you help me, you're supposed to be compassionate " I also get " why can't you make this legal so I don't have to go through all this hassle" but we will not compromise our standards or our confidentiality restrictions and we have spent much time and money over the years trying to make it legal for Compassion Clubs to deliver medicinal cannabis with no end in sight. These people don't mean to be rude, they are just in pain and frustrated and are desperate to get some help to ease their suffering. But I can't tell you how many people go out of our door saying to me " thank you so much for being here" and that makes it all worthwhile.*

*Part of our model at the BCCCS which I feel all clubs should use is our New Membering orientation interview which every applicant for membership has to go through. I could spend all day telling you about the people who stand in front of my desk looking positively terrified on their first visit. We get a lot of older people who*

have been referred for cancers, MS, arthritis etc, they have like me never tried cannabis in their lives and for them this first experience is quite traumatic and scary and they totally do not know what to expect. The applicants often bring a friend or family member with them and to ease the tension I will often say " I see you've brought your bodyguard with you" and hopefully this gets a smile and starts to lighten the experience for them. But the difference when they have finished their orientation is like chalk and cheese, the main concerns of people are that they might have to start smoking or that they are always going to be high and because we are not legal the VPD are going to stop them when they walk out the door, but after an hour or so of discussion about these and of course our suggestions of how we can help them and they are usually so pleased and thankful when they walk out of our door with some medicine and hope for a better future.

I would just like to refer to Dr Daly and her recommendation re edibles and baking them, I do keep a selection of recipes in my drawer for those people who would like to try but its not easy making the butter etc and a lot of people are just not capable of this, maybe can't cook, maybe have arthritic fingers, or don't have time after their busy work day etc Also we still have a lot of loyal members who come from the Downtown Eastside and live in some of the horrendous SRO's, they don't have ovens to cook in and buying medicine for them may mean they can't afford to buy food as well sometimes so at least they are getting some nutrition from the edibles

Also Councillor Ball has been very diligent in asking patients why they did not apply for the MMAR

- a) It was only one strain of cannabis and very sub standard
- b) it was smokables only
- c) it was by mail order only
- c) no advice/consultation possible and d) no social interaction between members. The MMAR is no different!

But after all this I should tell you why I am at the end of the speakers list as I originally did not intend to speak to you, but I was a spectator on the Wednesday night and I was so incensed by the discussion on youth usage and the statistics you showed that I decided to come. I was also upset about the numbers that were taken to hospital, but thankfully with no lasting after effects, ( i.e. no one has ever died from cannabis use but definitely from alcohol and smoking!) but this was from the 420 debacle. I went once to this event to look see what actually happens there and was so horrified to see all the people selling cannabis in all forms to young kids, this has absolutely nothing to do with supplying cannabis to sick and dying people as we do in our dispensary. If there is one thing that this Council needs to take action around is this 420 nonsense, either cancel it or police it and not allow any products to be sold there. I reiterate this has absolutely nothing to do with legitimate dispensaries such as ours, we have a few young people as members who access with their Doctors approval and must be with their parent or guardian. They are seriously ill children, not stupid kids looking to get high!!

And as to members not bringing their children in to a dispensary, how utterly ridiculous, what must young Mothers do, tie their children up to the tree outside!

There are so many feel good stories I could tell you but probably one that sticks out in my mind is of a young lad of about 17 who the Cancer Agency personally called me about before even faxing in the necessary Practitioner's Statement. He had been suffering for many years, he couldn't go to school, had no friends, no life and they had tried all treatments etc and asked if we could do our best to help him. He lives in Northern BC and has no local access to a dispensary and at the time was here in Vancouver for a check up. I immediately called his Father and arranged for them to come in the next day. This first visit he was an extremely quiet and depressed looking young man and his Father was so grateful that we would try and help his son. After about 8 weeks they were back down again, well what a difference, he now was back in school and catching up well, he

*has friends and a life and they were both so happy, he still has the cancer but its controlled and he can get on with the sort of life a young guy of his age should be experiencing.*

*Thank you for listening to me and I would just like to mention again that these are my personal views*

*Diana Purkis*

**Isfeld, Lori**

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 9:16 AM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: helicopter showed up last week when I was smoking my medicine, during cleaning

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

**From:** s.22(1) Personal and Confidential  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 10:18 AM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

**Subject:** Please add to my submission to the Public Hearings Fwd: helicopter showed up last week when I was smoking my medicine, during cleaning

Please add this to my submission.  
I have to do housecleaning for people at least one day a week.  
It still doesn't provide enough money for rent/food/hydro...

It looks like we truly ARE living in a police state if helicopters are showing up because of people smoking cannabis!

Kim Patrick O'Leary

----- Forwarded Message -----

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2015 10:14:26 AM  
**Subject:** helicopter showed up last week when I was smoking my medicine, during cleaning

s.22(1) Personal and Confidential

I will be there to clean on Tuesday.  
I hope the same thing doesn't happen.

I usually smoke mid-way through cleaning, and then I smoke after washing the floors.  
Because I hurt!  
Then have lunch, and clean the kitchen.

For the past few months I have been smoking outside the side door from the garage.  
It is private and almost no one can see me.  
The neighbour came home last Tuesday.  
A minute after I finished smoking and went in the house, a helicopter appeared overhead.  
It searched around the school for ten minutes before flying away.  
I am pretty certain it was because of me smoking.  
This is the type of hysteria that people are talking about at the Public Hearings into Licensing of Cannabis Dispensaries.

This is pretty stupid wasting a helicopter and pilot for someone smoking!  
When there are serious issues to be dealt with in the lower mainland.

I don't know if it was the neighbour, or, if you feel it worth mentioning something to her.  
I have a prescription etc. and have belonged to the Compassion Club for 18 years, and no one, including the police here, think of bothering me.

Thought I better mention this.

Thanks

Kim

**Isfeld, Lori**

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 3:26 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: Regulation of Dispensaries.

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

From: ken jackson [mailto:[kenja\\_2@msn.com](mailto:kenja_2@msn.com)]  
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 3:06 PM  
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
Subject: Regulation of Dispensaries.

Thank you for allowing medical users a forum in which we can better our access. Born and raised in Vancouver, I have spent the last thirty years as a First Responder and diagnosed PTSD after years of trial and error useage of pharmaceuticals. Both my siblings also PTSD and both overdosed (on the same medications I was perscribed and could buy at the local pharmacy. These deadly drugs were even covered by 'healthcare' and Drs cannot seem to give out enough combinations. My PTSD was getting the best of me and a coworker suggested I try cannabis. But from where? I didn't know any cannabis users so I was forced to find it on the street, in places I never dreamed I would ever have to go. I knew instantly after trying a small amount my anxiety disapated and for the first time in years I slept at night for more than two hours. My Dr sent to for a second opinion and after convincing him, I was able to aquire my MMAR License and grow my own medicine. After being Licensed for 4 years, and the collapse of MMAR, my Dr would nolonger endorse the new system and suggested I buy my medicine"on Granville Street". I was back to square one.

For me there is no going back on pharmaceuticals. My health would not stand it and there were no medications that were effective for me, aside cannabis. I can barely afford my perscribed amount and either I medicate or buy groceries or pay the grocery bill. The Dispeñsary I use is the one 880 East Hastings or Thurlow Street run by Dana Larsen and The Compassion Club on Commercial and 14th. The Compassion Club offers so very much to the community in the way of additional services, I cannot praise them enough. Edibles are neccesary and should be included in the new system, as are topicals, ointments, salves and balms. The reason Dispensaries are so popular with the public is that cannabis works! Worldwide people are catching on that cannabis is medicine and people want what is Safe and Works! You cannot say the same about pharmaceuticals.

Zero deaths, it is a plant. It can truly change the World.

Thank you for listening to our plea.

K. Jackson

Sent from my iPad

**Isfeld, Lori**

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**From:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 3:51 PM  
**To:** Public Hearing  
**Subject:** FW: Public hearing for "Regulation of Retail Dealers – Medical Marijuana-Related Uses"

**From:** Jay Maguire [<mailto:jaymaguire42@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 3:47 PM  
**To:** Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office  
**Subject:** Public hearing for "Regulation of Retail Dealers – Medical Marijuana-Related Uses"

Hello,

I would like to provide comments regarding the public hearing for "Regulation of Retail Dealers – Medical Marijuana-Related Uses"

I suffer from a severe form of temporal lobe epilepsy, that had not been properly treated for some time throughout my teen years. When I was first diagnosed in the ER, I asked about cannabis, since I was familiar with it's anti-epileptic effects already; at the age of 16-17, however, obtaining a license to consume cannabis for medical reasons felt impossible. As my life went on, I would still have seizures now and then, which would sometimes stop my breathing; each trip to the ER was a revelation about another epilepsy medication that I had adverse reactions to. I consider myself very lucky to have not suffered any further injury as a result of my condition, and now that I have a prescription to use cannabis to treat my epilepsy, I am able to live seizure-free. In my case, I can sense when the possibility of a seizure is approaching and am able to take measures to prevent it, Medical cannabis clinics have given me the ability to live a much more normal, stress free life; and have made me feel like a more productive person; and in my experience, they are very professionally and responsibly managed and have no negative impact on the surrounding community in my opinion.

- Jules Maguire -