

Isfeld, Lori

From: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 1:40 PM
To: Public Hearing
Subject: FW: Robert W.E. Laurie (Marijuana Lawyer/Oxford) - AD LUCEM LAW CORP. (Speaker 21) - Offer of Assistance

Importance: High

From: Rob Laurie AD LUCEM LAW CORP. s.22(1) Personal and Confidential
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 12:57 PM
To: Correspondence Group, City Clerk's Office
Subject: Robert W.E. Laurie (Marijuana Lawyer/Oxford) - AD LUCEM LAW CORP. (Speaker 21) - Offer of Assistance
Importance: High

Dear Mayor Robertson and Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you last night.

I was speaker 21 and spoke on behalf of AD LUCEM LAW CORPORATION and as a member of the downtown community.

As per my presentation, I would be delighted to assist the Council in any way I can regarding regulation of dispensaries. I consider assisting Council as a civic duty, plus it would be a great experience to share my knowledge and passion regarding medical cannabis. Please let me know how I may be of service.

I am very impressed with efforts made by Council to date to explore and understand an issue which cuts deeply into many facets of the Vancouver community and ultimately British Columbia. This is a difficult issue but the Supreme Court of Canada decided by unanimous decision of 7-0 in R v. Owen Smith to put the rights of patients and non-patients ahead of a arbitrary federal Conservative regime agenda (which makes no sense).

I'm a second generation Vancouverite (8th generation Canadian) who has been fortunate to have lived, studied and travelled abroad (Texas, Ireland and England) and practice law internationally (Vancouver, London and New York). My father, as some of you may have suspected is Bob Laurie. I am delighted to follow in his footsteps by taking an opportunity to participate in the municipal process by speaking in Council.

In addition to legal qualifications obtained in England and Wales and BC, plus a law degree from Oxford, I have experience and insights gained from practicing corporate commercial and product liability litigation with leading international British and American law firms. During this time I worked on deals and litigation involving large tobacco, oil and pharmaceutical companies. I had the unique experience to spend 6 months completing my litigation training seat under the direction of the relationship partner at Ashurst for Imperial Tobacco.

With respect to my local legal experience, I completed my Canadian articles at BLG in Vancouver and worked for a boutique litigation practice before joining Silvercorp Metals Inc. as their In-House Litigation Counsel during the company's high profile short and distort securities fraud case. As part of my duties I would travel to New York on a monthly basis for meetings with the SEC, FBI and our NY and DC legal counsel.

Following Silvercorp I founded AD LUCEM LAW CORP. so that I could take cases of interest and practice law in less restrictive environments than those offered at large law firms. Consequently, I have been accessible to the public and provide pro bono legal services through Access Pro Bono at Gathering Place Community Centre in addition to cases for private clients and corporations. I also take legal aid (LSS) cases throughout BC, and have appeared in remote locations including Haida Gwaii and Fort Nelson.

With respect to the issue of medical cannabis and dispensary regulation, I am happy to provide answers and thoughts to any questions the Council may have. I would be happy to speak with Council along with a panel of experts perhaps working in conjunction with the efforts of Hilary Black and Jamie Shaw. Councillor Carr requested a list of recommended 'industry' advisers who could be of assistance and I am happy to provide some clarification.

As discussed, I do work with clients across the spectrum from large scale industrial operations (8000 lights) to small medicinal MMAR growers to public companies in the LP, edibles, dispensary and paraphernalia spheres, so am happy to share my professional insights and thoughts regarding the future of the international industry. I am also familiar with the position of a number of leading activists and activist and special interest groups.

In addition, I was personally asked by John W. Conroy Q.C. and Kirk Tousaw to appear with them as part of a corporate panel as part of the Continuing Legal Education Society of BC's Medical Marijuana Symposium 2015 which was held last month at the Pan Pacific. John and Kirk are criminal defence lawyers and I practice corporate commercial and product liability law. Within a number of years I have managed to place myself in positions of confidence for participants in the marijuana industry across the spectrum.

Recently, I was asked by Jamie Shaw (BCCCS and CAMCD) to be an advisor to the Canadian Association of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries (CAMCD), which is an organization that has Hilary Black, Dana Larsen, Rielle Capler, Shega A'Mula and Jamie Shaw as leadership and advisors. These are your "BC Pioneers" and I was honoured to be asked by Jamie Shaw to be an advisor and the CAMCD board is voting next week. Please note this appointment is not public knowledge as of yet.

I would also recommend obtaining a prospective about medical patients from Jason Wilcox, President and Founder of the Cannabis Rights Coalition. Without Jason and the Coalition there would not have been a constitutional challenge and successful injunction re: Allard.

Again, I applaud the Mayor and Council of the City of Vancouver for their bold position to consider issues to deal with circumstances that the federal government is not addressing. Ottawa is 4,363.1 km from my home town and BC represents 50% of the industry. The BC Provincial Government supports dispensary regulation and Victoria is following suit. Well done for being first municipality to listen and understand.

Just to clarify, with respect to prescriptions, doctors should not charge for prescriptions under the Canadian system for any medicine. Unfortunately, doctors are reluctant to write a script or prescriptions because they presently face sanctions by the police and their College (under the present law). In the present environment where there are no clear guidelines, doctors are performing a service which they should charge for.

Again, thank you for taking such a brave step. The VPD and Chief Chu are to be commended as well. I believe the SCC will provide greater clarity regarding the situation when they rule in R v. Allard. For now something must be done to regulate and address the rapid proliferation of "pot shops". Following the reasoning in R v. Smith, I suspect we will see provision in the law for personal growing which will undermine the LP system. Either way, dispensaries are positioned uniquely on the supply and demand curve which makes their regulation of vital importance.

The law regarding medical cannabis is anything but certain at this time. Law is ever evolving and old laws of course are replaced with new laws. I if can help the Mayor and Council navigate through these challenging but important waters, I invite the opportunity to inform, assist or collaborate with Council as you collectively see fit. My door is open.

Thank you again for your attention and consideration.

Kind regards

Rob

Robert W. E. Laurie,
MA Juris (Hons) Oxon.
Barrister & Solicitor BC, Solicitor England & Wales,
Notary Public



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Inner City Safety Society

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April 27, 2015

Mayor and Council
Vancouver City Hall
453 West 12th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 1V4

On behalf of the many children and families living in Vancouver's Strathcona neighbourhood, particularly in the Campbell & Hastings area, we are very happy to support the City's proposed regulations for cannabis dispensaries – particularly the mandate to locate them away from schools and community centres. We believe this action is long overdue and would like to thank you and your staff for taking steps to protect our neighbourhoods.

Our society and many of the families who live in this area have long been concerned with the proximity of two dispensaries which are located less than half a block from the Ray-Cam Community Centre. Until it was recently closed after a raid by the Vancouver Police Department, a third dispensary – Weeds – was located in that block as well. It should be noted that Ray-Cam provides licensed childcare for approximately 120 children, as well as afterschool programs and other activities for at least another 100 children daily. We believe very strongly that these outlets should never be allowed to locate in close proximity to places where children congregate.

A number of local problems have been noted arising from these shops; the activities at Weeds were the most blatant. Local residents and at least one local worker reported seeing individuals who had clearly just purchased marijuana come around the corner, across from Ray-Cam, and in turn hand the product off to a youth. Drug dealing in general has worsened in the area and numerous reports have come in about secondary marijuana distribution taking place in the local BC Housing complex.

Other issues raised by local residents have included:

- Despite the requirement that marijuana only be supplied for medical reasons, at least one of these shops (Weeds) has a doctor available who is reported to sign a prescription upon request.
- These dispensaries offer no education as far as we can tell. Parents are smoking around their children (including breastfeeding moms), to the point that children are turning up stoned at local childcares. Our local nurse practitioners and doctors in particular have expressed concerns about the medical consequences for children of such early, repeated exposure to marijuana smoke (and whatever else happens to be mixed in).
- Food is being sold and there appear to be no food standards or inspections being enforced.

- In a 2013 article in the Vancouver Courier, Weeds owned up to not always buying from medical suppliers.
- People are smoking onsite and then are seen to be driving away, clearly stoned.
- Kids have been spotted inside the premises on more than one occasion.
- Teenagers have been seen standing around outside, asking passersby to buy pot for them.

The Inner City Safety Society opposes on principle the location of any marijuana dispensary within at least two blocks of a community centre, children's playground, or school. While the situation has improved somewhat since Weeds closed, there are no guarantees it will not deteriorate once more in the absence of regulations.

We fully support the City's proposed regulations. Please feel free to contact us if we can be of further help in addressing this important issue.

Best regards,

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Judy McGuire/
Coordinator, Inner City Safety Society

c.c. Penny Ballem, City Manager