

MOTION ON NOTICE

5. Future of the 420 Cannabis Protest

Submitted by: Councillor Kirby-Yung

WHEREAS

1. In February 2016, the Chair of the Vancouver Park Board wrote to the Mayor expressing concern on behalf of the Board of Commissioners about the unsanctioned 420 event moving to Sunset Beach, and the fact that City of Vancouver staff had confirmed this location to organizers without consultation with the elected Board;
2. In March 2017, Vancouver City Council referred a motion to staff titled '*Finding an Appropriate Location for Vancouver's 2017 420 Event*' on the stated basis that the matter could not be considered prior to the anticipated forthcoming legal framework for cannabis by the Government of Canada;
3. Cannabis was legalized in Canada on October 17, 2018. With the legalization of cannabis by the Federal Government, there is now a legal framework in place governing the production, sale, possession and use of cannabis;
4. During the 2018 event, VPD counted 482 vendor tents. 420 organizers generate revenue from fees paid by vendors. The sale of cannabis and cannabis related products at events such as 420, is not permissible under the new legal framework. Cannabis products can only legally be purchased through government licensed outlets;
5. 420 organizers intend to hold their annual protest at Sunset Beach again in 2019 for the fourth year running because another location has not been made available by the City of Vancouver;
6. Smoking or vaping cannabis in parks and on beaches is prohibited under the Cannabis Control and Licensing Act as well as the Park Board Smoking Regulation By-law;
7. Many West End residents have expressed grave concerns with the 420 event at Sunset Beach due to impact on air quality, noise, vandalism, and resulting multi-week closures of damaged sensitive grassy park space;
8. In February 2019, the Vancouver Park Board passed a motion that staff send a letter to the Mayor and Vancouver City Council to request continuation of the exploration of alternate venues within the City of Vancouver in consultation with 420 organizers, in order to move the protest event to a more appropriate location that will not cause disruption to West End area residents, seawall users and Vancouver Aquatic Centre patrons, with the goal of having the event relocated by 2020.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council support the Vancouver Park Board's request for assistance in finding an alternate venue for 420.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to consult with 420 organizers and the public to identify an appropriate non-residential neighbourhood site where the 420 event could be held in future years with due consideration of City by-laws.

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