



City of
Richmond

Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor

6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1
Telephone: 604-276-4123
Fax No: 604-276-4332
www.richmond.ca

January 16, 2018

The Honourable John Horgan
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Horgan:

Re: Update on Cannabis Regulation within the City of Richmond and Health Canada Proposed Approach to Regulation of Non-Medical Cannabis

At the Regular Council meeting held on Monday, January 15, 2018, Richmond City Council discussed the Health Canada consultation regarding the Proposed Approach to Regulation of Non-Medical Cannabis (the "discussion paper") in the City of Richmond and passed the following resolution:

That a letter be sent to the Premier (with copies to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, BC Leader of the Official Opposition, Leader of the BC Green Party, local MLAs, and local Members of Parliament) reiterating that the cultivation and processing of marihuana be considered an Industrial use to take place on Industrially-zoned land and not be considered a Farm Use.

Richmond City Council is concerned with the loss of agricultural land for food production with the legalization of cannabis and the use of agricultural lands for cannabis production. The scope of cannabis cultivation and processing, as outlined in Health Canada's discussion paper, suggests such activities are industrial rather than agricultural. Therefore, there are no advantages in utilizing farmland compared to cultivating in a controlled environment, such as an indoor enclosed facility.

It is important for local government to maintain authority over regulation of land use, zoning and business operations as it pertains to cannabis cultivation (including nurseries), processing, sale, analytical testing, and research in order to respond to local context or conditions.

541627

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General	
RECEIVED	
JAN 26 2018	
<input type="checkbox"/> MO Response	<input type="checkbox"/> INFO FILE
<input type="checkbox"/> DMO Response	
CC:	
OTHER:	

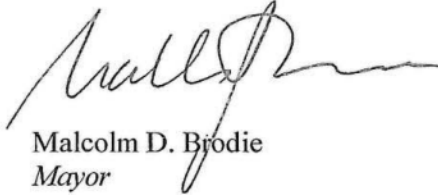
5720994

Richmond

To ensure farmland areas are prioritized for soil-based food production, with minimal footprint for buildings and modification of land, the City recommends that cannabis cultivation and processing be excluded as a permitted use under the British Columbia's Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation.

Please contact me at 604-276-4123 if you require any further information.

Yours truly,



Malcolm D. Brodie
Mayor

pc: The Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General
Rich Coleman, Leader of the Official Opposition
Andrew Weaver, Leader of the Green Party
The Honourable Alice Wong, MP for Richmond Centre
Joe Peschisolidi, MP for Steveston-Richmond East
Teresa Wat, MLA, Richmond North Centre
John Yap, MLA, Richmond-Steveston
Linda Reid, MLA, Richmond South Centre
Jas Johal, MLA, Richmond-Queensborough

His Worship Malcolm Brodie
City of Richmond
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor Brodie:

Thank you for your letter dated January 16, 2018, expressing the City of Richmond's views regarding the use of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) for non-medical cannabis production in response to Health Canada's proposed approach to regulation.

I know similar concerns have been raised by local government representatives through the Joint Provincial-Local Government Committee on Cannabis Regulation. As these concerns relate specifically to use of the ALR, I have shared a copy of your correspondence with the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Lana Popham.

The Ministry of Agriculture is currently engaged in two priority initiatives that touch on this issue and is working closely with the Cannabis Legalization and Regulation Secretariat to help inform provincial cannabis policies related to agriculture. In addition, the Minister of Agriculture has established an independent Advisory Committee to provide strategic advice, policy guidance, and recommendations on how to help revitalize the ALR and Agricultural Land Commission to ensure the provincial goals of preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming and ranching in British Columbia continue to be a priority.

You may be interested to know that the Advisory Committee is currently leading a public engagement. For more information on how to participate, please visit the website:
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/agriculturallandreserve>.

Although the proposed legislation provides for provinces and territories to regulate certain components of the legal non-medical cannabis regime, the Government of Canada will be responsible for licensing cannabis production. For more information on the federal government's approach to legalizing and regulating cannabis in Canada, including proposed requirements for cultivation licenses, please visit the website:
<http://health.canada.ca/en/services/health/campaigns/marijuana-cannabis.html>

.../2

His Worship Malcolm Brodie
Page 2

As you may already know, the Province recently announced a number of key policy decisions and set direction on other key aspects of how non-medical cannabis will be regulated in British Columbia. These decisions include: distribution, retail, personal public possession, public consumption, minimum age, personal cultivation and drug-impaired driving. More detailed information on these policy decisions is available on the provincial cannabis webpage.

There is still much work to be done on this priority initiative. Ensuring our regulations balance and reflect the views and values of all British Columbians is of great importance as we work towards the federal government's July 2018 timeline for legalization.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Mike Farnworth
Minister of Public Safety
and Solicitor General

pc: The Honourable Lana Popham

PSPB WATSON/McLACHLIN/ANDERSON

C/541627