

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ADDENDUM

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

3:00 P.M.

Board Chambers

This meeting will be recorded

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Delegation: Marlee Brown, re Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Store Licence Application No. PL2019-043 – 3125 Van Horne Road, Electoral Area F

Summary: It is my hope that together with government and community support, we will be able to provide government regulated, quality tested and secure access to the newly legalized cannabis industry, in an effort to minimize the risk of illegal access and black market transactions.

Action Requested: Board support regarding PL2019-043.

From: marlee brown

Date: 2019-06-03 3:58 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: Ian Thorpe <ian.thorpe@nanaimo.ca>, "Rogers, Bob" <bob.rogers@rdn.bc.ca>, "Wilson, Keith" <keith.wilson@rdn.bc.ca>, "Craig, Vanessa" <vanessa.craig@rdn.bc.ca>, "Young, Maureen" <Maureen.Young@rdn.bc.ca>, "Salter, Leanne" <leanne.salter@rdn.bc.ca>, "Gourlay, Clarke" <clarke.gourlay@rdn.bc.ca>, "McLean, Stuart" <stuart.mclean@rdn.bc.ca>, Leonard Krog <leonard.krog@nanaimo.ca>, Sheryl Armstrong <sheryl.armstrong@nanaimo.ca>, Tyler Brown <tyler.brown@nanaimo.ca>, Ben Geselbracht <ben.geselbracht@nanaimo.ca>, Erin Hemmens <erin.hemmens@nanaimo.ca>, Ed Mayne <mayor@parksville.ca>, Adam Fras <councillorfras@parksville.ca>, Mark Swain <mayor.swain@lantzville.ca>, Brian Wiese <mayor@qualicumbeach.com>, Don Bonner <don.bonner@nanaimo.ca>, Jim Turley <jim.turley@nanaimo.ca>

Subject: Application No. PL2019-043

Dear Respected Board Member,

I am the applicant for Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Store License Application No. PL2019-043, located at 3125 Van Horne Rd in Electoral Area F. The application will go before the Committee of the Whole on June 11th, 2019 at 3:00pm.

The purpose of this communication is to introduce myself to you and give you a bit of background information on myself and what's been happening. I will try to keep it brief as I know you are all very busy and appreciate your time.

- I grew up in the Qualicum Beach and have family in Coombs and Port Alberni – this is my home
- I'm a Registered Nurse, currently working in Vancouver waiting to take a course on Rural/Remote Nursing and plan to follow-up with a Masters
- Leanne Salter, Director of Electoral Area F has indicated support of this application, along with, Colleen Murray, Founder/Director of Arrowsmith Independent School (formerly Morning Glory School); and Dr. Kevin Elder, Superintendent of School District 69 has no voiced concerns.
- Face-to-face communication with community members is well underway to gain an understanding of their perspective and obtain their support. (I will update you via email later as we get closer to the meeting)

It is my hope that, together with government and community support, we will be able to provide government regulated, quality tested, and secure access to the newly legalized cannabis industry in an effort minimize the risk of illegal access and black-market transactions.

Thank you for your time, commitment, and direction towards continued community care, support, and representation.

Kind Regards,
Marlee Brown, BScN



From: marlee brown

Sent: Friday, June 7, 2019 09:00

To: Redpath, Nicholas

Subject: letter and photo

Hi Nick,



Regards,

Marlee

With Gratitude,

Colleen Murray

Founder/Director

Arrowsmith Independent School & Preschool



861 Hilliers Rd. Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1X5
Phone: 250-752-2722 Fax: 250-752-8558
Email: arrowsmithschool@shaw.ca
Website: arrowsmithindependentschool.ca

May 17th, 2019

Re: Marley Brown's application no. PL 2019-043
3125 Van Horne Rd
Qualicum Beach B.C.>
Subject Property lot 6 dis lot 7
Camron district, plan 22313

I am writing in response to a visit from applicant Marley Brown. She came to the school to follow up on a letter written anonymously from a community member against her application, due to the proposed sites proximity to Morning Glory School. She wanted to be diligent in her application process. I appreciate Ms. Brown coming to our school to directly talk about these concerns, and to seek input from me, as Director of Arrowsmith Independent School. (Formerly Morning Glory School)

Upon reading the letter in question, it became clear to me that the person who wrote it clearly was not speaking truth, as many of their points were totally incorrect. Allow me to share my insight. I will go down the letter and clarify the facts pertaining to the writers false statements:

I, and the families involved in our school community are well aware of the intention to open a non-medical use cannabis store at 3125 Van Horne Rd, as many of us daily drove by the huge application signage board for all to see. During that time, I received NO concerns from families about that application. Our school is over 1 km away from the proposed site, and in NO WAY "just around the corner from the school" as the letter states. I brought up the subject with our school community, and the general consensus is that having a legal retail store far enough from our school does not pose an immediate threat or concern to our school community.

The writer also states that "since the dispensary down the highway moved in, there's been an influx of very questionable people in the neighborhood as well as drug paraphernalia and needles being found..." Although I DO agree that there is a higher element of theft, and questionable people in the neighborhood, it is wrong to state that is because of the dispensary. The type of criminal activity increasing in our neighborhood is not a result of marijuana users, but homeless people who may be drug dependent who have been driven out of town and are building a settlement in the forest, as well as squatting on a property as close as 2 doors down

from our school. THAT is a concern for me, not a proposed legal cannabis store over a kilometer away.

The writer refers to his children attending Morning Glory School in the present tense. Morning Glory school closed 3 years ago, and I have owned and run Arrowsmith Independent School from that day forward. Clearly, this is a false statement.

They refer to "a family right across the road who started a Facebook group for crime watch." I know this family, and we are working together, with the RCMP to facilitate a community meeting to address the huge problem of theft and individuals living in the woods trafficking stolen goods with their ATV's. It is ignorant to assume that cannabis = crime, and that the issues in Hilliers area have anything to do with cannabis users going rampant.

I could go on to point out the many incorrect "facts" and assumptions the writer made, but it is not a good use of anyone's time. I trust that you can use your logic to discern that someone whose strong opinion is backed by incorrect statements and assumption, from the comfort of their own home anonymously, should not be considered the voice of the neighborhood.

It is our obligation as educators to equip our students with knowledge and facts, to give them the tools to discern for themselves. The changing stigma of Cannabis is a great example of this. I really appreciate Marley Brown approaching me to clarify this letter, as it gave us an opportunity to discuss our approach to the "cannabis talk" with our students. Being a registered nurse, she has unique insight into the facts and science behind cannabis use, and I look forward to working with her to develop opportunities to educate our students about the cautions and hard facts about cannabis.

I welcome you to contact me with any questions or concerns. My phone number at the school is 250-752-2722, and email is colleen.arrowsmithschool@shaw.ca

Thank you for reading this letter, and I hope it was helpful to clarify a few things.

With Gratitude,

Colleen Murray
Founder/Director
Arrowsmith Independent School

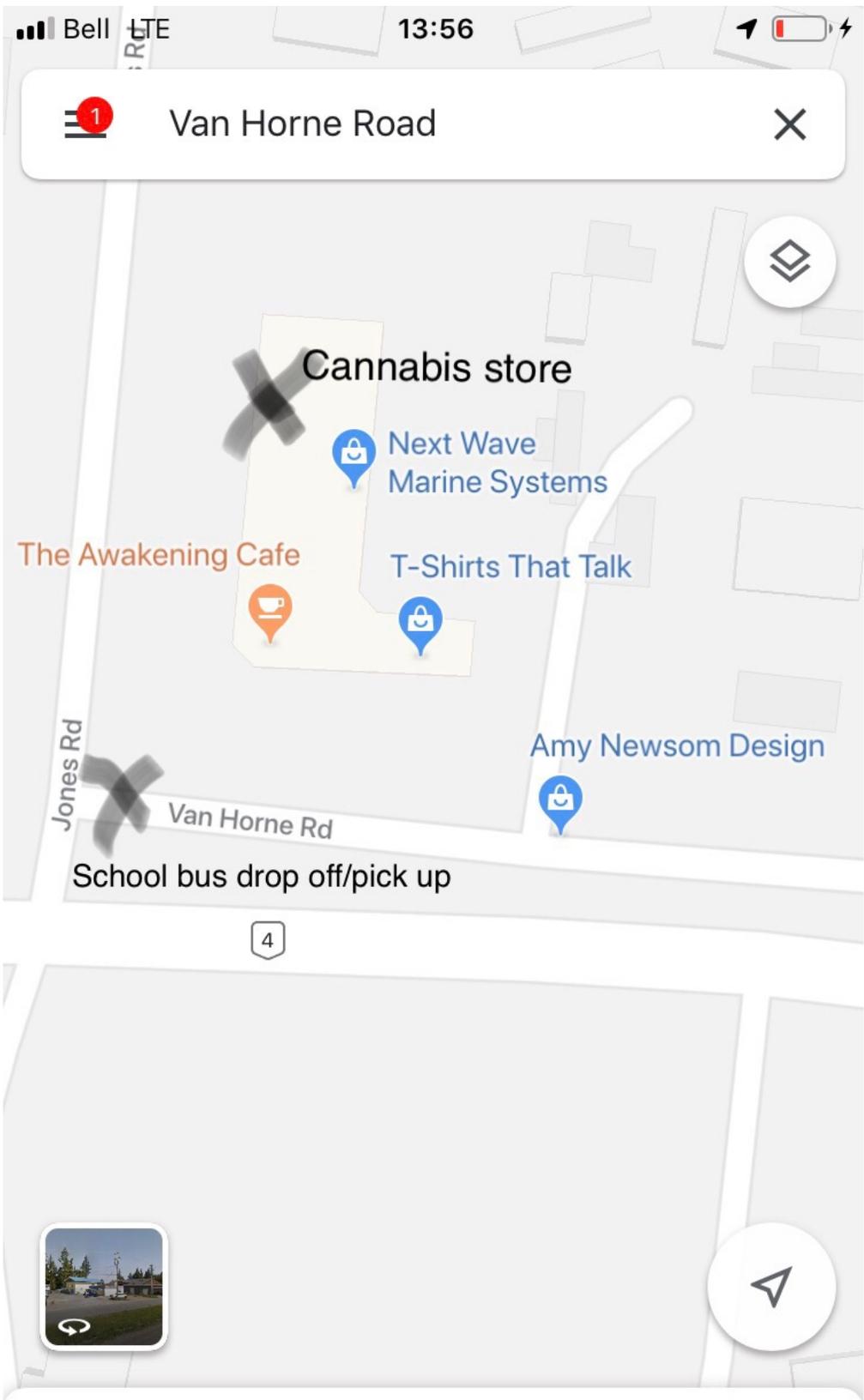


Front of Cannabis store.
Tinted windows.
No advertising.

Cannabis store not visible



School bus drop off/pick up



Van Horne Rd
Nanaimo F, BC



Front view of plaza



Front view of plaza



The driveway in to unit 8 off Jones Rd.
The locked gate is access to the
loading area behind the building.

Delegation: Brian Millward, re Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Store Licence Application No. PL2019-043 – 3125 Van Horne Road, Electoral Area F

Summary: To clarify any questions or concerns regarding PL2019-043, provide a background on the cannabis industry, Pros vs Cons of legal vs illegal cannabis.

Action Requested: Board support regarding PL2019-043.

Legal vs Illegal Retail Dispensaries

LEGALLY LICENCED NON-MEDICAL CANNABIS RETAIL STORE	ILLEGAL CANNABIS RETAIL STORE
Must be licenced by Health Canada and follow stringent rules and regulations	Do not answer to anyone or have any rules or regulations to follow. They are subject to raids by police authorities that will confiscate the illegal merchandise and the employees present can be charged with possession and sales.
Product is obtained from approved government operations and is purchased through the Liquor Cannabis Regulation Branch, which has been quality tested and is sold in sealed packages.	Product is obtained from illegal growers, not tested for quality or safety for consumption and may contain other deadly illicit drugs like fentanyl, LSD, coke or heroin and is just as unsafe as product sold on the streets.
Cannot make medical claims about the products, they are strictly recreational use (no different than selling alcohol at a liquor store). Medicinal marijuana comes with a prescription that should be filled at a legal medical marijuana licenced facility whereby patients can claim their prescription purchases for tax purposes	Make medical claims for health benefits, do not require a prescription and cannot claim these purchases on income taxes, and again are using the same untested, illegally obtained product as above.
Requirement by Health Canada to have High security and surveillance around and inside the premises so everything and everyone is monitored and recorded around the clock. Any questionable activity can be reviewed and acted upon.	No requirement for any type of security on their premises.
Every package of cannabis sold has a product label, is dated and has a unique bar coding that identifies exactly what facility the product was purchased from and where the consumer bought it. This makes it very traceable.	Product most often sold in unsealed packages, paid for with cash and is not at all traceable back to the supplier. So there is no liability to anyone selling tainted products.
Customers must show photo ID and are required to be 19 years of age or older to enter the premises. Fines and store closures will be levied to stores not in compliance.	Although some illegal dispensaries will ask for ID, there are under no obligation to sell only to customers over the age of 19. They can sell to anyone that walks through their doors that has the money to pay for product.
Windows must be tinted so that product is not visible to people walking by the store. Signage cannot display pictures of cannabis or indicate that it is a dispensary of any kind and you cannot have street signs advertising or promoting cannabis sales.	Illegal operations do not follow these guidelines
There are legal limits to the amount of product a licenced store can sell to a customer, just as there are legal limits to the amount of alcohol an individual can purchase. This limits the amount of	Can sell as much as they want to anyone. This person can turn around and go sell it to kids or could have collected a bunch of money from his/her friends and went in to buy it for everyone.

	product one obtains and makes it difficult for someone who is of age to come into the store and buy a whole bunch of products and turn around and sell it back to minors.	
	Just as you are not legally allowed to go into a liquor store, come out and crack open a can of beer, you are also not permitted to do this with product purchased from a licenced non-medical cannabis retail store. Customers are supposed to take their product home and consume it there.	Some illegal stores have lounges inside their premises or outside for their customers to go out and enjoy their purchase and have a visit with others afterward.
	Smell – there is none in a licenced facility. Products are sold in sealed packages so there is no smell until the package is opened.	Packages are not sealed and smoking outside the premises is not regulated so the smell will linger and draw attention to it.
	LEGALLY LICENCED NON-MEDICAL CANNABIS RETAIL STORE	ILLEGAL CANNABIS RETAIL STORE

NOTES:

1. If this application is denied, the illegal dispensaries in the area will continue to operate under no guidelines or regulations and will continue to distribute illegal, untested, potentially laced drugs to whoever has the money to pay for them.
2. As long as there are no legally licenced non-medical cannabis retail stores in operation in the area, there is no obligation on the part of authorities to remove the illegal operations because of the claims they make with respect to the medical benefits of the product they are selling. When there is a legal facility operating, the Liquor & Cannabis Regulation Branch is obligated to investigate complaints of illegal operations and can ask the local authorities for their assistance in shutting them down.
3. Cannabis is now a legal substance that is accessible to anyone over the age of 19. No different than alcohol and it is not going to go away. We are trying to make the purchase of cannabis in this community safe and keep it out of the reach of minors.

For more information, you can call Marlee Brown at 250-240-5090 or Nicole Richard at 250-816-3864, or via email at nicole.richard88@gmail.com.

If you do not support this application, you will be endorsing the operation of illegal dispensaries in your community that are selling cannabis from illegal growers which is untested, untraceable, unregulated and may possibly contain illicit drugs such as LSD, fentanyl or heroine.

The legalization of cannabis is no different than alcohol and it isn't going to go away. Which type would you rather have in your community? The sooner a licenced facility is operating in your community, the faster we can work toward shutting down the illegal operations.

If we do not have written community support, the application for a licenced facility will be defeated and the illegal store will continue to operate. If you would like to express your support for this application (PL2019-043), please email Nick Redpath at the RDN: NRedpath@rdn.bc.ca by May 27th, 2019