



Councillor Frances Nunziata
Chair, Etobicoke – York Community Council
Toronto City Council
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York South-Weston

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February 8, 2010

Attn: Chair & Members of the Licensing and Standards Committee

From: Councillor Frances Nunziata

Re: **Recovery of Enforcement Costs for Synthetic Drug Labs, Crack Houses, and Booze Cans**

In 2007, the City enacted Municipal Code Chapter 565, Marijuana Grow Operations, to address the threats to community health and safety posed by the illegal conversion of premises for the purposes of producing marijuana. Chapter 565 includes provisions for imposing “enforcement charges” on the owners and occupants of property in order to recover the City’s costs of enforcement necessitated by the discovery of a marijuana grow operation on the premises. These charges are intended to hold the owners, as well as occupants of a property, responsible for activities which pose a threat to the local community and require the allocation of City resources for enforcement.

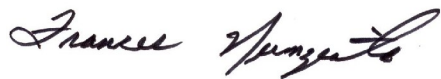
The health and safety of local communities is threatened in the same way by premises which are used for the production of illegal drugs other than marijuana and illegal activities such as drug dealing and the illegal consumption and sale of liquor. The Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services and other City enforcement agencies are required to dedicate time and resources to the investigation and enforcement of laws and by-laws in respect of these premises.

I have met with Staff Inspector Mario Di Tommaso of the Toronto Police Service Drug Squad who advised that the creation of a by-law such as the one being proposed would be a useful tool for the Toronto Police Service in their investigation and enforcement of these types of premises. The importance of having an up-to-date fee schedule was noted, as it was identified that the current fee schedule in place under Municipal Code Chapter 565, Marijuana Grow Operations, does not accurately reflect the costs incurred by the Toronto Police Service as a result of their investigation/enforcement of marijuana grow operations.

In light of the above, I ask that the Licensing and Standards Committee adopt the following recommendations:

1. Direct the Deputy City Manager, in consultation with the City Solicitor, Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and other affected City Divisions, to prepare a report to the Committee with respect to the creation of an enforcement cost recovery by-law for premises used as synthetic drug labs, crack houses or booze cans.
2. Direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing & Standards, in consultation with the City Solicitor, Toronto Police Service, Toronto Fire Services, and other affected City Divisions, to update the fee schedule in place under Municipal Code Chapter 565, Marijuana Grow Operations to more accurately reflect the costs incurred with respect to investigation and enforcement.
3. That the decision of the Committee with respect to this request be forwarded to Chief William Blair and Staff Inspector Mario Di Tommaso of the Toronto Police Service for their information.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frances Nunziata".

Frances Nunziata
Councillor, Ward 11, York South-Weston
Chair, Etobicoke Community Council