



City Councillor – Ward 17 •Davenport

May 10, 2016

Ms. Rosemary Mackenzie
Administrator
Etobicoke York Community Council
Etobicoke Civic Centre
399 The West Mall, Main Floor

Dear Ms. Mackenzie:

RE: Marijuana Dispensaries in Ward 17

As a result of the Federal Liberal government promising to legalize marijuana, the City of Toronto has seen a rash of marijuana dispensaries/pharmacies opening their doors for business. These establishments are opening at an alarming rate across the City of Toronto, without a legal license to operate.

Health Canada has authorized 27 licensed producers across Canada with just 15 of them operating in Ontario. These licensed establishments are allowed to sell/dispense marijuana to those with verified prescriptions. According to Health Canada, Toronto Police and City of Toronto, all other establishments are operating illegally.

As of April, two locations are operating within Ward 17, 1326 St. Clair Avenue West and 1715 St. Clair Avenue West. These two properties are subjected to the former City of Toronto Zoning By-law 438-86 only; not to the new City-wide Zoning By-law 569-2013. Under the Toronto Zoning By-law 438-86, these properties are zoned MCR whereby a marijuana dispensary is not a permitted use.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Etobicoke York Community Council

1. Recommend that City Council request that Toronto Police Services, Divisions 11, 12 and 13, in co-operation with the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing & Standards, also proceed with the enforcement of all laws relating to marijuana-related retail businesses in Ward 17.
2. Direct the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards to inspect marijuana dispensaries operating at 1346 St. Clair Avenue and 1715 St. Clair Avenue West respectively, and take all enforcement action as deemed appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,





Cesar Palacio, Toronto City Councillor
Ward 17 - Davenport