

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM34.42	ACTION			Ward:All
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Action Against Illegal Cannabis Delivery Service Weedora - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Toronto Police Services Board to request the Chief of Police to report to the Toronto Police Services Board on the actions taken to address illegal cannabis delivery services and request the Toronto Police Services Board to forward the response to the City Manager by December 31, 2017.

Summary

A company called Weedora has recently been distributing advertisements across the City promoting a cannabis delivery service. Interested patrons can text Weedora and they will send one of their drivers to deliver cannabis to the patron's home. This is an illegal service that makes it easier for youth to access a substance that is not yet legal.

The Federal Government has a target date of no later than July 2018 for the legalization of cannabis. On November 1, 2017, the Provincial Government tabled its plan, the Cannabis Act, 2017, which aims to safely regulate the use and distribution of recreational cannabis when it is legalized. This legislation would create a provincially-operated retail model for cannabis sales that does not permit sales by private entities. As well, the minimum age to purchase cannabis will be 19 years of age. City Council voted during its meeting October 2, 3 and 4, 2017 to support this plan and asked the Province to enhance the City's enforcement authorities and tools to address illegal storefronts.

The cannabis industry has now found a different way to distribute its products, taking the idea from popular food delivery apps. Anyone can place an order and there are no regulations to control what is in their products. Youth under the age of 19 could use this service to access cannabis more easily. This is very concerning as cannabis can cause harmful effects on the developing brains of young people. Parents are very concerned about this open access to cannabis for their children.

The City needs to take action not only against illegal cannabis storefronts, but also against Weedora and its illegal sale of cannabis.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM34.42