

## City Council

### Motion without Notice

MM12.32	ACTION			Ward: All
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### **Request to Health Canada to Improve the Process for Issuing Personal Medical Cannabis Licences - by Councillor Michael Thompson, seconded by Councillor Michael Ford**

*\* 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 Michael Thompson, seconded by Councillor Michael Ford, recommends that:

1. City Council request Health Canada to amend regulations under the Cannabis Act to:
  - a. ensure that all cannabis production facilities adhere to municipal zoning regulations prior to the issuance of a registration certificate;
  - b. ensure that personal medical cannabis production does not occur commercially, including considering setting limits on the maximum number of plants per premise for personal use medical cannabis production; and
  - c. ensure medical documents submitted to Health Canada for the purposes of growing medical cannabis are valid, including a mechanism to identify and validate documents that prescribe a particularly large amount of cannabis for medical purposes.

#### **Summary**

Cannabis production, authorized under federal medical cannabis licences, is occurring at locations that are counter to the best interests of the surrounding neighbourhoods and local communities.

One example is found at a property in Ward 21 located adjacent to a housing complex. Cannabis is being produced at this property under several medical cannabis personal-use licences which, in total, allow for over 1,600 cannabis plants. Neighbours and City staff were unaware that the production was occurring until interior air from the property began venting into the housing complex's driveway. Residents living on that side of the building were no longer able to open their windows because of the pungent odour.

At my request, Municipal Licensing and Standards' Cannabis Enforcement Unit led an

inspection of this location along with Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Building, and the Ontario Electrical Safety Authority. As a result of this inspection, ventilation was addressed through the installation of carbon filters, a zoning notice of violation was issued by Municipal Licensing and Standards, and an Order to Comply was issued by Toronto Building for a contravention under the Ontario Building Code Act.

If Federal regulations covering personal use medical cannabis are not tightened, such situations will continue to emerge. Current Health Canada regulations do not require applicants to provide a zoning certificate confirming that facilities meet Zoning By-Law and setback requirements before licences are granted. In addition, the regulations under the Cannabis Act permit an exceptionally large number of plants to be grown at a single location.

By presenting the City's concerns to Health Canada now, the City can get ahead of this problem before it gets out of hand.

### **Background Information (City Council)**

Member Motion MM12.32