



Date: June 8, 2020  
To: Chair and Members of Etobicoke York Community Council  
From: Deputy Mayor Stephen Holyday  
Subject: New Cannabis Retail Locations in Etobicoke York District

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**SUMMARY:**

Recently there have been three new cannabis retail locations proposed in Ward 2, Etobicoke Centre; 418 The Westway, 1735 Kipling Aveune and 3112A Bloor St. W. There are new cannabis retail locations proposed in every ward of the district.

I have been contacted by numerous residents who have raised concerns about the poor suitability of the locations, and the increased risk of access to cannabis by minors that they pose. Some locations are very close to more than one school, and they are located at or near strip plazas and parks which are frequented by youth. The Provincial regulations require a separation distance of 150 metres between the retailer and a school, and many find this too permissive given the context.

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) is the regulator and approval authority for these retailers. There is limited opportunity for the public and elected municipal officials to intervene in these decisions, giving rise to concerns over transparency and fairness.

I hope that you will support the following motion to ensure that the concerns of our community regarding cannabis retail sites are heard by the AGCO and are given adequate consideration in their decisions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. That Etobicoke York Community Council recommend that City Council request that the AGCO, when considering the needs and wishes of the community for new retail cannabis locations in Etobicoke York District, give additional weighting to:
  - a) Proximity and size of schools in this urban setting
  - b) Other retailers and amenities near proposed locations which attract youth and expose them to the cannabis retailer
  - c) The proximity of parks and other publically accessible spaces which support or enable consumption of cannabis outside of private homes
2. That the City Council request that the Clerk forward this decision to the AGCO with three business days.

Yours Sincerely,



Stephen Holyday  
Deputy Mayor  
Councillor, Ward 2  
Etobicoke Centre