

City Council**Motion without Notice**

MM32.34	ACTION			Ward: All
---------	--------	--	--	-----------

Cannabis Retail Store Clustering on Danforth - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Ana Bailão

** 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 Ana Bailão, recommends that:

1. City Council request that the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario consider the proximity of other cannabis retail stores in neighbourhoods when approving applications.
2. City Council reiterate its request to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, that when considering the needs and wishes of the community for new retail cannabis locations in the City of Toronto, it give additional weighting to:
 - a. proximity and number of community services that involve children and/or vulnerable adults;
 - b. the proximity of parks and other publicly accessible spaces which support or enable consumption of cannabis outside of private homes; and
 - c. any communications from the City of Toronto that do not support clustering of pot shops.
3. City Council request the City Clerk to forward this Item to the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario within three business days.

Summary

There is a new cluster of cannabis retail stores forming along Danforth Avenue between Pape Avenue and Langford Avenue. There is a new application for a store located at 810 Danforth Avenue, in very close proximity to two other stores that are already operating at 715 and 730 Danforth Avenue. The same issue is also occurring in the Riverside neighbourhood of Toronto-Danforth, with six cannabis stores within a few blocks.

The Provincial Government continues to approve many new retail cannabis store locations

without sufficiently considering community and municipal council concerns. The Provincial regulations are also far more permissive than the originally proposed Municipal rules, which would have prevented some of the clustering issues communities are encountering.

These three stores on Danforth are also close to public parks and are within a vibrant neighbourhood and Business Improvement Area, which includes many other retail stores and restaurants. Three cannabis stores within two blocks should not be permitted and there is a need to protect the retail diversity of our neighbourhoods.

The Provincial Government continues to approve many new retail cannabis store locations without sufficiently considering community and municipal council concerns about clustering.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM32.34