

MEDIA RELEASE

DVBIA Asks City to Close Marijuana Shops

June 10, 2015 – VANCOUVER – The Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association (DVBIA) is asking Vancouver City Council and the Vancouver Police Department to close all retail marijuana shops.

Until the Federal Government changes the law to permit retail businesses to purchase legal supplies of marijuana and to sell or distribute to persons who are legally permitted to possess it, the DVBIA will not comment on the City's proposed regulatory framework for Retail Dealers - Medical Marijuana-Related Uses.

As part of the current public hearing process, the DVBIA has sent the City a letter to this effect. Should the City decide to go ahead with regulation, the DVBIA draws its attention to three major points for consideration:

1. As a matter of principle, no business license should be issued to a business that operates contrary to provincial or federal law.

The City's proposal to create a license category whereby a holder cannot even begin to comply with current federal drug laws and is thereby engaged in an illegal act; it does not make any sense. The City is fully aware that these are illegal operations and would be enabling these businesses in breaking the law.

2. No regulatory framework should be imposed without proper analysis of resources that will be needed for enforcement.

The DVBIA is concerned that the limited and valuable resources of the City, the Vancouver Police Department and other agencies will be expended to regulate and enforce against businesses engaged in illegal products and activities.

3. No licensing scheme should be imposed which is discriminatory to any one category of business.

Retail marijuana dealers have expressed concerns about the \$30,000 annual business license fee and it is highly likely that this will be challenged. From the DVBIA perspective, this exorbitant fee establishes a worrisome precedent that could be applied to other business license categories.

About the DVBIA

The DVBIA represents 8,000 property owners and tenants in the 90-blocks of the central business district and downtown south. It is in its 25th year of operation.

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