

# City Staff Report

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Original signed by: City Manager Johnson

**Report Date:** November 22, 2017

**Meeting Date:** November 27, 2017

**To:** City Manager

**From:** Director of Development Services

**Subject:** Cannabis Retail

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## Purpose

Obtain direction on processes for considering Cannabis Retail Applications.

## Summary

- An application to consider a Cannabis Retail Store at 308 McLean Street has been received from the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.
- The zoning bylaw needs to be amended to approve the application and a consultation process is required to gain feedback from the public as per the requirements of the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch on a Cannabis Retail being located at this site.
- Staff recommend drafting zoning policy to permit Cannabis Retail in the C-3, C-2 and C-4 zones and concurrently drafting a council policy to add further specifications on Councils approval considerations.
- Staff requires direction on the number of stores, location of stores and siting requirements of stores to guide future Council decisions.
- The policy will be adopted by Council prior to final zoning approval.

## Recommendation

THAT Council directs staff to prepare a zoning amendment that permits cannabis retail in the Central Business District Commercial (C-3), West Quesnel Business District (C-2), and Highway Commercial (C-4) Zones;

AND THAT Council direct staff to undergo a cannabis retail license application process with 1412 Holdings Ltd., the current applicant for a cannabis retail store, to be located at 308 McLean Street concurrently with the above zoning amendment;

AND THAT Council direct staff to develop a Council Policy that states Council will permit one store in each commercial zone only, require distances of 100m from schools, parks and playgrounds, and provide any additional considerations Council would like in this policy;

AND THAT Council directs staff to accept no more than one application per zone from the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch until the Council Policy for Cannabis Retail approvals is complete.

## Statutory Requirements

Cannabis Act – Federal

Cannabis Control and Licensing Act - Provincial

Cannabis Distribution Act - Provincial

## Council Policy

Zoning Bylaw



Business Licensing Bylaw

Application Procedures Bylaw

## **Strategic Objective**

N/A

## **Financial Implications**

\$1000 Cannabis Licensing Application Fee

## **Background**

Following the enactment of legislation regulating the retail sales of recreational cannabis direction to go slow and permit one government store was decided. Through the policy adoption process additional information and clarity on cannabis retail licensing was obtained and due to the 2018 municipal election three new council members whom preferred revisiting the policy options.

Council defeated the Bylaw that would have enacted the previous direction at the November 20th regular council meeting and provided direction to staff to revisit policy options on cannabis retail stores including: permitting private and government cannabis stores in the community; the number of stores that should be allowed within the community; the proximity to schools and parks; and process options developed for application review in other communities.

Options for moving forward:

- 1) Require a spot zone for each application and run the Cannabis License Approval process concurrently;
- 2) Pre-zone specific areas to permit cannabis retail and utilize the Cannabis License Approval process to approve specific sites/applications.

Staff is recommending pre-zoning with the development of Council Policy to guide any further siting conditions. The reason for this is that the Liquor and Cannabis Retail siting branch has been working with the City at locating a store and staff would like to ensure that they and any other applicant are notified that the city is interested in application in any of these areas.

Under each of these options policy needs to be developed regarding the number of stores to be permitted in the City, location requirements, consideration of any other conditions that may be imposed on the applicant (ie security).

In order to adequately manage the processing of policy Staff is recommending Council resolve to only allow application for one store per zone to be accepted from the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.

## **Attachments**

Local Governments Role in Licensing Non-Medical Cannabis Retail Stores

## **Options**

1. Approve recommendation.
2. Amend and approve.
3. Provide an alternative direction.