Winnipeg | Chief Administrative Office
Direction municipale

September 29, 2020

Kadri Irwin, Director, Operations
LGCA MB
1055 Milt Stegall Drive
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0Z6

Ms. Irwin:

Re: Retail Cannabis Location Licensing through Social Responsibility Review Process

When the sale of Cannabis was approved by the Province of Manitoba in August 2018 the City of Winnipeg was assured that the location of proposed retail outlets would be vetted by the Province through its existing Social Responsibility Review Process to ensure the locations fit the community they were proposed in. Based on that assurance, the City's Public Service recommended to Council to allow the Provincial system to guide retail locations and leave our retail policy and regulations as-is.

On May 26, 2020, the City received an email from Roger Dacquay, Manager, Supply Chain and Commercial Partners Cannabis Operations, MBLL, indicating that the Province would be launching the Phase 3 roll out of retail cannabis outlets as of June 1, 2020. This communication was the first time the City became aware of a new process that would result in the discontinuation of the Province's Social Responsibility Review Process for pre-approving specific retail cannabis locations in Winnipeg. The expectation is that the City of Winnipeg would be responsible for determining the appropriateness of proposed retail locations through the Provincial licensing process.

The City of Winnipeg Zoning By-laws consider retail cannabis to be a retail use permitted in any area zoned for commercial use. The City of Winnipeg does not currently have any mechanism in place to review proposed retail cannabis locations. While the City Public Service will immediately begin the process of developing a framework for conducting store location reviews, and may request input from the LGCA, it expected that this process will take six to ten months to complete.

Consequently, please consider this letter a formal request for the Liquor Gaming & Cannabis Authority of Manitoba to continue to assess the appropriateness of proposed retail cannabis locations in Winnipeg through the application of its Social Responsibility Review Process, until the City of Winnipeg is prepared to conduct these reviews.

Respectfully,

Michael Jack
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
City of Winnipeg

cc: Mike Ruta, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
John Kiernan, Director, Planning, Property & Development Department (PP&D)
Marc Pittet, Manager of Real Estate and Land Development, PP&D
Martin Grady, Zoning & Permits Administrator, PP&D

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