

Addressed to The City of Burnaby,

Delegation 2018 October 01

Regarding the debate of policies affecting the operation of Privately run Cannabis Societies in comparison to Government operated Cannabis Shops.

As a Burnaby resident and Compassion Club member, I am deeply hurt by the possibility that my Compassion Club may no longer exist. Please consider the plea of many who, like me, have found a great deal of personalized support and care from the medical marijuana Compassion Clubs of Burnaby. These clubs take the time to get to know their patients and their needs, they work with their patients to ensure they are medicating in the safest way possible. It is definitely a safe community environment, where people have each other's best interest at heart.

We are not against Government run Cannabis shops, however, I do believe they cannot replace a Compassion Club. The two are entirely different entities targeting different markets. Compassion Clubs are a community. Compassion Club members need their communities to stay stable as they have been acting as a support system for hundreds of patients. Patients battling chronic illnesses from cancer to arthritis come together at Compassion Clubs to share their stories and support one another. They share medicating successes, what has worked and what has not; they help each other through the battle, physically, emotionally and mentally supporting one another. It would be wrong for the City of Burnaby to take away a support system that has been successfully helping hundreds of people.

The transition from medical cannabis use to recreational can be a safe and smooth process for many with the help of Compassion Clubs. As a result of extensive experience, we understand how use affects many people in different ways and are determined to help the public use in a safe and responsible manner. The Government shops do not have this experience to offer people. We believe it is in every one's best interest to allow private Compassion Clubs to coexist with Government run shops.

To prove Compassion Club commitment to communities, Green Light District Compassion Society has agreed to donate 5% of profits made after legalization, to community programs such as, after school programs for kids, and other community oriented charities.

We are asking for the right to continue serving our community in a healthy and holistic way beyond the sale of marijuana.

Sincerely,  
Green Light District Compassion Society

CC: City Manager  
Director Planning and Building



August 31, 2018

Burnaby City Council  
City of Burnaby  
4949 Canada Way  
Burnaby, BC, Canada  
V5G 1M2

Dear Mayor Corrigan and Council,

Re. Cannabis Retail in Burnaby

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My name is Clad L. L. L. and I am a resident of the City of Burnaby.

I am writing to you in advance of the upcoming public hearing on cannabis retail in Burnaby. As a concerned citizen and a future consumer of recreational cannabis, I am very disappointed to hear that Burnaby is considering only allowing government operated stores within the City when cannabis is legalized in October.

One of the goals of the legalization of cannabis is to move consumers away from illicit sources of cannabis, to the legal market. In order to do that, consumers have to be provided with a better option than what they currently can access through the illicit market. Since not everyone enjoys the same consumer experience, this means that consumers need to have choices when shopping for cannabis.

Private retailers can accomplish this. Not only will they provide customers with different and varied shopping experiences, but they will also be able to provide different strains of cannabis and specialized products that might not be able to be purchased through a government run store. Customers like me might end up travelling to other municipalities to purchase our cannabis and cannabis accessories. As a resident of the City, I would think it beneficial to encourage retail cannabis within Burnaby, to generate even more tax benefits for the City. Private retailers are also in a position to service consumers immediately upon legalization taking effect in October, so there will be no delay in consumers being able to access cannabis products.

I would like to see Burnaby do what is necessary to convert as many consumers from the illicit cannabis market to the legal market, and to keep cannabis business within Burnaby. In order to do that, consumers need to be provided with different retail options.

As such, I would encourage City Council to immediately open up applications to private cannabis retailers.

Sincerely,



82 Signatories to same letter