



February 6, 2022

Mayor Lyn Hall & Prince George Councillors
Attention: City Clerk
Prince George City Hall
1100 Patricia Blvd
Prince George, BC
V2L 3V9

Dear Mr. Mayor and City Councillors:

Re: Cannabis Licence Application No. CN000020

On behalf of WestJet, I would like to thank the Mayor and City Councillors for the opportunity to submit these written comments with respect to the public hearing on the above noted rezoning application and cannabis licence application.

As has been highlighted broadly by media over the last year, incidents of unruly behavior onboard aircraft have been increasingly more common, with the International Air Transport Association reporting some carriers seeing increases of unruly behaviour of more than 55% year over year. WestJet, similarly, has also seen a significant increase in unruly behaviour of passengers, and in many cases the underlying cause is found to be intoxication. Unruly behaviour onboard an aircraft is a fundamental safety issue, where the most severe cases see passengers physically assaulting crew members or other passengers, and in some cases, attempting to open cabin doors or emergency exit windows, and resulting in the diversion of aircraft.

An aircraft cabin is not an appropriate place to be intoxicated, whether that be by alcohol or by any other intoxicating drug or substance such as Cannabis. It is widely known that the physiological effects of consuming intoxicated substances are significantly different in an aircraft cabin which is pressurized with a lower oxygen level than on the ground. Consumption of any intoxicating substance will have a different effect on a person's body than if consumed on the ground, and this is particularly true for persons who have not consumed substances while travelling before, and when paired with other intoxicants such as alcohol.

While WestJet understands the legalities of purchasing and consuming cannabis, we believe than any person or entity that is selling cannabis must do so very responsibly, especially when there are considerations for the safety of all persons. In Copilots submission, they are clear that they are seeking to sell cannabis to users for the purpose of consumption for air travel, be it before travel or onboard aircraft. There is no language in their documentation that seeks to highlight the risks of cannabis consumption during air travel, and in fact, they seek to encourage customers on using cannabis to 'make flying easier and a more enjoyable experience'.

Further, we believe that the branding of the store as "Copilot" is inappropriate for the basis of selling cannabis within an airport. Pilots are incredibly professional and are responsible for the safety of an aircraft and are highly regulated to not consume any intoxicating substance, including cannabis prior to travel. The image that is portrayed by a cannabis store being named "Copilot" is comparable to a liquor store that is named "Designated Driver".

For the above reasons, we would kindly ask that City Council deny this amendment and cannabis licence application. Should Council seek to approve it, we would suggest that this should only be done with a number of conditions that ensures that the operator is acting in a responsible manner, which would include:

22 Aerial Place NE 403 618 7637
Calgary, Alberta westjet.com
Canada T2E 3J1

- Changing the name of the store to something not associated with aviation, and something that does not construe the consumption of cannabis with air travel.
- Requirement to publish educational information on the risks of consuming cannabis during air travel, including changes to the physiological state of a body when at altitude, and notification that being intoxicated onboard aircraft and any unruly behaviour is a punishable offence under the Canadian Aviation Regulations.
- Requirement to remove all references and suggestions for the use of cannabis onboard aircraft or for air travel from their business plan, website, marketing material, and any other materials, along with training for staff that includes the risks and concerns of use of cannabis during air travel, and a commitment to not suggest that cannabis should be used during air travel.

We thank you for the opportunity to respond to this application and remain available for any further comments on this application.

Kind regards,



Jared Mikoch-Gerke
Director, Government & Regulatory Affairs
WestJet Airlines
jared.mikochgerke@westjet.com