

Dear: Your Worship, Mayor Hall and Honourable Council,

I wish to register my adamant and sincere approval for granting a business licence for a cannabis storefront at 100 Tabor Blvd. South. As a resident living very close to the proposed location, I believe a cannabis storefront would improve livability in our community. I understand some people have objected to the proposed location, but I humbly request Council to consider the facts and listen to residents who actually live in the area, such as me, instead.

Cannabis is legal, and I cannot tell how many times I've been walking in the neighbourhood and smelled that familiar skunky cannabis smell. People around the proposed location partake in cannabis, and they have every right to access it legally close by. We have already lost a close-by grocery store when 7-11 bought the Mr. G's Plus, took out the groceries, and then shut the whole thing down. I urge Council to make this neighbourhood more walkable and accessible, not give in to backwards people who would prevent that.

Zion Lutheran Christian School worries that enrolment will go down at their school if the cannabis storefront opens there, but did they object to a liquor store opening? Dr. Terah Albertson thinks a cannabis store will harm his professional reputation, but did he object to a liquor store opening? Cannabis is more tightly controlled than alcohol, and I've never heard of anyone getting high on cannabis and beating their spouse or getting into a bar fight. I've never heard of anyone killing people while driving high (though I do not approve of driving high).

By selectively objecting to a cannabis store, cannabis being a much milder social-ill than alcohol, these people show themselves to be hypocrites who are having trouble adapting to the reality that cannabis is legal and every adult Canadian has the right to partake of it. They are denying walkability and accessibility to their neighbours, or rather, to people who actually live in the neighbourhood. What will people think of the dentist as they drive past because they have to buy their cannabis elsewhere?

That is, if people simply don't call up drug dealers and buy from the black market instead. The purpose of cannabis legalization, as stated by the prime minister and federal government, is to shut down the black market and to protect children from cannabis. By making cannabis less accessible, Council would be encouraging the black market and drug dealers in our neighbourhood. I would much rather see a legal and regulated cannabis storefront than drug dealers.

How would the Zion Lutheran Christian School and Dr. Terah Albertson feel about drug dealers hanging around their spaces? Would they object more or less than to a legal and regulated storefront?

I imagine they would object more.

Sincerely,  
Redacted

Wendel Schwab

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