
Subject: FW: Amending Bylaw NO.8940

From: Jason Lacharite **Redacted**
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 10:00 AM
To: cityclerk <cityclerk@princegeorge.ca>
Subject: Amending Bylaw NO.8940

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Dear Mayor and Council,

I am writing to you today in the hopes that you will amend Bylaw NO.8940 (Nuisance abatement provisions and enforcement) to explicitly include (excessive – not occasional) cannabis use/smoke.

In truth, I am not sure I fully understand why I need to be reaching out to Council to resolve this matter. Bylaw NO. 8940 clearly states that “any activity which substantially and unreasonably interferes with a person's use and enjoyment of a highway, park or other public area or of land a person owns or occupies, or which causes injury to the health, comfort or convenience of an occupier of land, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes ***‘odour...annoyances...and or other objectionable situations that in law are a nuisance.’***” There would seem to be enough flexibility built into Bylaw NO.8940 to respond to complaints regarding the excessive consumption, production, or ‘baking’ or cannabis in neighborhoods – especially those populated by families with small children. And yet, bylaw enforcement has told me that they won’t even look into my concerns – they claim, oddly, that it is not covered under the existing Bylaw NO.8940 framework. I have to admit to being completely baffled by this.

Allow me to provide some context. Up until about five weeks ago our neighbor’s **Redacted** occasionally consumed cannabis cigarettes. Admittedly, we don’t like the smell, but we are also not opposed to cannabis use – it is legal and tolerable, if it is done in moderation; the same expectations apply to alcohol use or to playing music at a backyard BBQ event with friends and family. Then, at the beginning of September **Redacted** decided to up **Redacted** usage - significantly. It was at this point that the foul odour emanating from the property owner’s back yard became unbearable. Now, **Redacted** is smoking or baking cannabis from 6am in the morning to 9pm in the evening – non-stop, and every 10 to 15 minutes our home is hit with a wall of cannabis smoke – something that I didn’t even think was possible! It has now gotten so bad that if we open our bedroom window (or any window in the house) our home starts to smell of cannabis smoke. I hope you will agree that this is patently unfair. In addition, we can’t go outside onto our deck anymore or our front porch because the smell makes us nauseous and gives us headaches – that is how powerful and persistent the odour is. In all, our neighbor and **Redacted** behavior and lack of compassion and consideration now constitute a clear nuisance – there is no disputing this. Indeed, we know of many others who have leveled complaints with the City against these **Redacted** individuals and all to no avail – the police have even been called.

At his point, we (everyone in the neighborhood that is affected by one individual’s aloof and callous behavior) believe that the City has a duty to look into this matter—and other similar ones—more carefully. And, specifically with the aim of: a) enforcing the City’s own established bylaws; and/or b) amending those bylaws to ensure that the vast majority of property owners and ratepayers get to enjoy their homes without the fear of having them smell like pot cafes (a la Amsterdam).

In closing, please understand that we are not asking you to prohibit cannabis consumption or to place unrealistic restrictions on this activity – we accept that it wouldn’t be practical, legal, or even wise. Instead, we are hoping that, at a bare minimum, you will strengthen Bylaw NO.8940 in an effort to weigh the quality of life of residence who don’t smoke cannabis (and find the pungent, grotesque smell of cannabis products objectionable and importantly a nuisance) against those who enjoy this product. There just has to be a better way to satisfy the needs and

preferences of those of us who like fresh air (to the extent that it is possible in PG) and want our kids to grown up in wholesome, clean, and mutually respectful environments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jason R. Lacharite

Redacted York Drive

PG, Redacted

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