



SUBJECT: City of Burlington Resolution on Expanded Sale and Consumption of Cannabis in public spaces.

TO: Mayor and Members of Council

FROM: Office of the Mayor

Report Number: MO-02-20

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 130-01

Date to Committee: February 24, 2020

Date to Council: February 24, 2020

Recommendation:

Due to the government of Ontario's current exploration of expanding the locations for sale and consumption of cannabis, I am bringing forward the following resolution:

WHEREAS the City of Burlington opted-in to allow the legal sale of cannabis in 2019 and recognizes authorized retailers as a legitimate part of our business community

AND WHEREAS the City of Burlington has no objection to the incremental business opportunities being explored by the government of Ontario announced on December 12, 2020 including the move to an open market for retail cannabis sales,

AND WHEREAS on February 10th, 2020, the government of Ontario announced they were launching consultations to provide consumers more choice and convenience on cannabis while giving the private sector enhanced ability to compete against and combat the criminal market;

AND WHEREAS the government of Ontario is asking Ontarians to share their feedback before March 10th, 2020 as they explore certain expanded cannabis-related business opportunities to help inform possible next steps;

AND WHEREAS the online consultation asks the public, businesses, health and other stakeholders to comment on potential new cannabis opportunities, including consumption venues such as cannabis 'lounges' where people could buy and consume cannabis and special occasion permits to allow purchase and use at events such as outdoor festivals and concerts;

AND WHEREAS smoking and vaping of any substances, including cannabis, in Burlington are prohibited in indoor public places and other designated areas under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act of 2017;

AND WHEREAS the City of Burlington conducted a public survey between February 14th and February 23rd seeking input on the future of cannabis sale and use in consumption venues such as cannabis 'lounges' and at public events such as outdoor festivals and concerts and found that, of 969 respondents:

- 50% were **in favour** of allowing the sale and consumption of cannabis in places like cannabis lounges and cafés (5% undecided, 45% not in favour)
- 57% were **not in favour** of allowing the sale and consumption of cannabis at festivals and events such as music or food festivals, etc. (3% undecided, 40% in favour)
- 67% felt that municipalities **should be able to** decide/govern the sale and consumption of cannabis in cafés and lounges (11% undecided, 23% not in favour)
- 72% felt that municipalities **should be able to** decide/govern the sale and consumption of cannabis at special events (7% undecided, 21% not in favour)

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- The Council of the City of Burlington is open to the sale and consumption of edible cannabis products in additional locations such as cannabis lounges so long as these locations do not also permit the sale and consumption of alcohol nor conflict with our existing distance criteria for retail cannabis store locations.
- The City of Burlington does not support the sale or consumption of any cannabis products in public spaces or at public events such as outdoor festivals and concerts.
- We ask the government of Ontario to allow municipalities to make their own local decisions on these matters and permissions.
- We ask the government of Ontario to ensure that no additional permissions on the use of cannabis would be granted in such a manner as to contravene the Smoke-Free Ontario Act of 2017 or any Halton Region bylaws that exist at the time of their decision.

PURPOSE:

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
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Background and Discussion:

In order to be able to provide feedback to the province by their deadline of March 10th, the City of Burlington conducted a public survey online between the dates of February 14th and February 23rd to elicit public feedback about the locations of sale and consumption of cannabis in Burlington. This was done in response to the February 10th, 2020 notice from the government of Ontario that they are currently exploring the expansion of the sale & consumption of cannabis at additional locations such as cafes and lounges, and at public events.

Financial Matters:

Not applicable

Total Financial Impact

Not applicable

Source of Funding

Not applicable

Other Resource Impacts

Not applicable

Climate Implications

Not applicable.

Engagement Matters:

As per above, the public was consulted for their input via an online survey.

Conclusion:

Recommendation is for Council to approve the resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor Marianne Meed Ward

Appendices: (if none delete section)

- A. City of Burlington public survey results
- B. Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017

Report Approval:

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, the Chief Financial Officer and the Executive Director of Legal Services & Corporation Council. Final approval is by the City Manager.