

1 | HAMILTON COMMITTEE FOR CANNABIS meeting September 26th
September 23, 2018 from S. J. Creer

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE
HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING
COMMITTEE

September 23, 2018

VOTING AGAINST ALL CANNABIS/MARIJUAUNA OUTLETS IN HAMILTON,
ONTARIO

Attn; Deputy Clerk Janet Pilon

September 23, 2018 from S. J. Creer

Greetings to all the Councillors and Mayor Eisenberger. A concerned submission about Cannabis.

Cannabis is not safe! Cannabis is a dangerous, noxious product especially when smoked or ingested. It is a dangerous, gateway drug for many young adults. There are illegal cannabis users in my apartment complex that are dangerous and are also endangering the health of the many young children in the complex. I have presented to the City Public Health Committee as well. When I presented to the Health and Safety Committee Councillor Aiden Johnson was chairing the committee and he was complimentary in pointing out that I have been doing some good work in the community. I hope you will all continue to heed my concerns.

If City Council will vote to take the 'high road' (pun intended) and not allow Cannabis/Marijuana retailers they will set a precedent where Hamilton really is the best place to raise a child. The City will be one where children's health and developing bodies will not be negatively affected. In addition it will show to the youngsters in our community that their health is of utmost importance. There may be some money in the Cannabis industry but it will not be enough to offset the numerous mental health challenges youth face; there is a huge backlog for children/youth mental health services now as it is. The Cities of Markham, Richmond Hill and Oakville are opting out of Cannabis outlets. I definitely feel Hamilton should do the same.

As mentioned, the children in my apartment complex are not protected now from second-hand cigarette which is allowed in some places. Cannabis is not allowed but the illegal Cannabis dealers and users are not being dealt with. The staff from the City's Tobacco office also have concerns that I have shared with them; they were hoping the Province would enlarge the Smoke Free Ontario Act to include *all forms of smoke in multi-unit residential apartments*. Tenants such as myself are made ill by Cannabis and bothered by the associated violence. I have had other tenants offer me cannabis and when I complain nothing is done. I cannot afford to move nor can the young children in our complex avoid the toxic second-hand smoke from our shared apartment ventilation system. According to the Province's rules a nineteen (19) year old will be allowed to buy and consume at home; that means other tenants will be bothered by cannabis which is horrifying.

The Canadian Medical Association, Canadian Psychological Association, MADD Canada and other official agencies are very concerned about Cannabis

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Legalization. *I think this is the worst possible change ever to happen in Canada.* Our Prime Minister uses cannabis; what a great example for the youth. The Federal Liberal Party Secretary* has shares in a Cannabis company and it was an issue in the last election; of course the issue of legalization is to make the Prime Minister and his friends more money off the backs of children.

ISSUES: I tried so hard to present to the Federal Government when they were doing public consultations on Bill C45 and C46 but all my MP's/MPP's/PM ignored me. I wrote an article about my frustrations (included with the references). I have also tried to contact Premier Ford and Attorney General Caroline Mulroney but they are ignoring my Cannabis concerns as well. I am hoping the City of Hamilton will not ignore my concerns and allow me to breathe easily as well as the other tenants. I know that many tenants in my building including two families on my floor with young children are really concerned as well as there is an illegal cannabis user on the floor above them that really bothers them.

Council has a great chance to refuse Cannabis sales in the City as the Province is allowing. Please make that choice on September 26th. Next, I respectfully request that all illegal Cannabis retailers in the City be closed down permanently. If any Cannabis retailers set up they should be shut down immediately. There is an illegal Cannabis shop across from Delta Highschool; how has that not been shut down?

MEDICAL ISSUES REGARDING CANNABIS;

I know some people use cannabis medically but there are ways to imbibe it without smoking out one's neighbours.

The Canadian Psychological Association report September, 2017 titled 'Recommendations for the Legalization of Cannabis in Canada' is frightening when it states;

Research to date into the use and abuse of cannabis evidences the following:

☐ Regular or heavy cannabis use in adolescence is related to poorer educational outcomes, lower income, suicidality, greater welfare dependence and unemployment, as well as lower relationship and life satisfaction.

When I did my BA (double major) in Theatre Arts and Psychology we discussed illegal drugs on the developing youth's bodies. I strongly feel the City should disallow Cannabis in any form (and in any multi-use building where

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there are underage children) due to the elevated risks involved. Hamilton should not be considering making money off potential youth suicides. Cannabis revenues will not be 'moral' in that sense.

From 'The Epoch Times'; Dr. Paula Stewart, chief medical officer of health for the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit in Ontario, provided some statistics on marijuana use among youth. "Looking at the data, we have about one in four people in grades 9 to 12 say that they've used cannabis in the last year. And it goes up—60 percent of those in grade 12 say they used cannabis in the last year." Stewart said in an interview. She said young people need to understand that marijuana "is a chemical that is not natural to our bodies." "[Legalization] doesn't mean that this is a healthy product and it's OK to use it." The Pediatricians Alliance of Ontario (PAO) has warned that the legalization of marijuana could pose a serious risk to the health of children and teens, noting that after marijuana was legalized in Colorado in 2014, a children's hospital in the state saw a fourfold increase in the number of teenagers coming to emergency rooms due to marijuana intoxication.

OTHER AGENCIES/ADVOCATES;

City Tobacco Department, Andrew Dreschel's numerous articles in the Spec as well as many others saying Cannabis is dangerous but making it legal does not make it safe.

The BIA's, local advocacy groups and others think this is dangerous. I realize some councillors may be considering financial aspect but this product is too dangerous. Tobacco smoking has gone down with good advocacy over the years but Cannabis has a different caveat especially with our potsmoking PM. The City Council should stand up for our children's health as well as the rest of the citizens and ensure that this product does not become part of our community.

MY HOPES/REQUESTS;

Smoke Free Ontario will not let parents smoke in cars now. The City has a smoking bylaw for restaurants, public parks, recreation centres. I would ask that those Bylaws be strengthened so that no citizen is bothered by Cannabis downtown, outside of restaurants, bus stops, etc.

That the City will ensure all City Housing properties are fully smoke free and ensure that all multi-residential buildings are completely smoke free by

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changing Municipal bylaws. Cannabis should not be allowed anywhere in the City. I think Hamilton should tell the Province we do not want it at all. From my City Health and Safety Presentation in January, 2018; *Other municipalities which have gone smoke free in their social housing complexes are Ottawa and Waterloo and Guelph is considering it. So again, I ask CHH to designate my building as smoke-free and add a clause stating this in lease agreements/declarations. This request to change the lease is supported by the City of Hamilton's own Tobacco handout 'Is there Tobacco smoke in your apartment?'*

There are dangerous illegal shootouts happening; if Cannabis is kept from Hamilton then the Police will have a clear mandate to deal with the product. There are homeowners in the Greenhill Rd. area that cannot sell their homes as they are next to an illegal grow-up.

The City needs to do more to protect underage children in the apartment complexes in our city, including mine. I have been told by CHH staff that once cannabis becomes legal they cannot stop tenants from smoking it; cannabis will sicken children. If the City takes a courageous step and bans Cannabis then all the citizens will be protected. Cannabis makes me ill; the second-hand smoke gives me a migraine and an asthma attack. I cannot afford to lose work due to this. I do not want the young children in my complex to suffer either as exposure to any second-hand smoke can be a precursor to a child developing asthma and allergies.

If Cannabis is kept from Hamilton then no one will have to walk past an illegal dispensary and be smoked out, especially if they have health issues. Susie Braithwaite of the Downtown Hamilton BIA complained about the Cannabis Culture shop downtown bothering other patrons. And children waiting for a bus or ride will not be smoked out. Anyone with allergies/asthma will not be able to enjoy public spaces – imagine if Bayfront or the West Harbour area is full of cannabis smokers at a concert?

I hope the City disallows the illegal greenhouses in Jerseyville and other places; I have friends who live in Jerseyville and they are not happy. Cannabis is a toxic substance that should not be welcomed in the City. I hope the Councillors will do everything they can to ensure the safety of our citizens and children. Yours, S. J. Creer

MEDICAL ISSUES re. CANNABIS;

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From 'nosmoke.org'; Second-hand marijuana smoke contains fine particulate matter that can be breathed deeply into the lungs; Secondhand marijuana smoke contains many of the same cancer-causing substances and toxic chemicals as secondhand tobacco smoke. Some of the known carcinogens or toxins present in marijuana smoke include: acetaldehyde, ammonia, arsenic, benzene, cadmium, chromium, formaldehyde, hydrogen cyanide, isoprene, lead, mercury, nickel, and quinoline; Marijuana smoke contains tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active chemical in cannabis;

And; Secondhand Marijuana Smoke Is Not Benign. July 27, 2016
Karen M. Wilson, MD, MPH published in; 75231
The *Journal of the American Heart Association* is published by the
American Heart Association, 7272 Greenville Avenue,
doi: 10.1161/JAHA.116.004004

OTHER GROUPS ADVOCATING AGAINST CANNABIS;

Mayor of Richmond Hill, Ontario, MADD Canada, The Canadian Medical Association,

REFERENCES;

(https://www.theepochtimes.com/some-gta-mayors-reject-cannabis-retail-stores_2627464.html)

From; Aug. 24, 2016

<https://vancouversun.com/news/national/doctors-weigh-in-on-pm-trudeaus-plans-for-marijuana-legalization>

The Canadian Psychological Association report September, 2017 titled 'Recommendations for the Legalization of Cannabis in Canada'.

MADD CANADA

Nosmoke.org

<https://vancouversun.com/health/local-health/fatal-car-crashes-triple-among-drivers-high-on-marijuana-after-legalization-in-colorado-double-in-washington-state> look up the reference. No reliable road side sobriety drug test.

From: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/us-states-with-legal-pot-sales-see-rise-in-fatal-accidents-by-high-drivers/article26947558/>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/what-canadas-doctors-are-concerned-about-ahead-of-marijuana-legalization/article34694165/>

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*Rifici had come under fire a year ago while serving both as CFO of the party and CEO of Tweed, with a spokesman for former public safety minister Steven Blaney telling Postmedia that legalization "would benefit Mr. Trudeau's close millionaire friends that are marketing marijuana to Canadians."
(<http://www.ottawasun.com/2015/10/28/liberal-cfo-could-rake-in-marijuana-money-with-legalization>)

And lastly: From 'nosmoke.org'; Second-hand marijuana smoke contains fine particulate matter that can be breathed deeply into the lungs; Secondhand marijuana smoke contains many of the same cancer-causing substances and toxic chemicals as secondhand tobacco smoke. Some of the known carcinogens or toxins present in marijuana smoke include: acetaldehyde, ammonia, arsenic, benzene, cadmium, chromium, formaldehyde, hydrogen cyanide, isoprene, lead, mercury, nickel, and quinoline; Marijuana smoke contains tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active chemical in cannabis;

LASTLY MY ARTICLE AGAIN; I APOLOGISE FOR THE LENGTH OF THIS PRESENTATION;

Government's pot plans could harm children and bystanders

Opinion Jun 13, 2018 by Susan Creer Hamilton Spectator

Pot makes me sick! The smell of it gives me a migraine and incapacitates me. The illegal users on my floor not only smoke out other tenants but also poison the lungs of the eight young children under 13 on my floor alone. My building is part of a two-building complex with a lot of children.

There are so many negative issues with Bill C45. Marijuana is not harmless and the particulate matter is dangerous. Bill C45 issues include the following; health dangers, edibles at schools, illegal dispensaries and crime, policing, etc.

No level of government has determined how they will protect children and tenants in buildings with shared ventilation systems and no one has indicated how to protect citizens in public spaces. Childhood exposure to any second-hand smoke can be a precursor to asthma and allergies. Tobacco smoke bothers me as well. Hamilton's tobacco office has real concerns about possible legalization as well. The City of Hamilton does not allow cigarette smoking on recreation property or in parks but they allow it at City Hall on 4/20 (Weed Day) days. Why?

If someone needs medical marijuana there are ways to partake without poisoning your neighbours. Health Canada mails medical pot to patients so illegal pot shops are just that — illegal!

The Prime Minister says he wants to legalize pot to shut down the black market but he has not shared valid statistics. What is frustrating is that numerous Liberal MP's have shares in pot companies. Is Bill C45 about taking crime money away or making more for the PM's rich friends? The Federal Liberal party secretary '... Rifici had come under fire a year ago while

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serving both as chief financial officer of the party and CEO of Tweed...'. A spokesperson for former public safety minister Steven Blaney told Postmedia that legalization "would benefit Mr. Trudeau's close millionaire friends that are marketing marijuana to Canadians ..."

Political pundits wonder why more people do not vote. Here are several reasons why; when the elected officials ignore your calls you get discouraged! I tried for over a year to contact MP Filomena Tassi. In my quest to have my voice heard as part of the democratic process I have contacted the PM, MP Bill Blair, Bob Bratina and others on the Bill C45 committee but was ignored.

MP Tassi said there was no way I could present to committee in Ottawa as that was only for agencies and not individuals. There are four staff contacts for the Ontario government advisers and only one replied to my email which is discouraging. I tried to attend one of the prime minister's town halls but even with a ticket I was not guaranteed a seat. While watching CPAC coverage of the prime minister's events I saw that the prime minister often bullied or mocked everyone who disagreed with him.

Exactly how will Bill C45 protect children when pot can be purchased at a dispensary to be consumed/smoked at home? The Province of Ontario may allow 18-year-olds to purchase even though many medical experts state that pot should be restricted to age 25. Schoolchildren are not safe from pretty edibles. Marijuana affects the brain and can alter memory, cause panic attacks, depression and affecting judgment and motor skills. How will rental property managers deal with toxic second-hand smoke and mould?

Bill C45 is wrong for so many reasons; damage to children, lack of consultation with the public, impairment issues, toxic second-hand smoke in public places and homes, mould issue, etc. The government's pot plans will harm children and other innocent bystanders.

Susan Creer is an advocate who lives in Hamilton.

And;

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There are both potential therapeutic uses for and potential health risks of using cannabis (marijuana). A chemical called delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is responsible for the way your brain and body respond to cannabis. While it is used by some for therapeutic purposes, there are short- and long-term physical and mental health effects that can be harmful.

SHORT-TERM HEALTH EFFECTS

While cannabis may make you feel relaxed and happy, you could experience unpleasant, unwanted or negative effects on your brain and body.

EFFECTS ON THE BRAIN

The short-term effects of cannabis on the brain can include:

- confusion
- sleepiness (fatigue)
- impaired ability to:
 - remember
 - concentrate
 - pay attention
- anxiety, fear or panic
- reduced ability to react quickly

Cannabis use can also result in psychotic episodes characterized by:

- paranoia
- delusions
- hallucinations

Emerging evidence suggests that a chemical in cannabis called cannabidiol (CBD) may help dampen some of the psychoactive effects of THC¹ such as:

- disturbances in mood
- psychotic symptoms

There is also evidence to suggest that combining tobacco with cannabis can increase:

- the strength of some psychoactive effects²
- the risk of poor mental health outcomes,³ including dependence

Effects can be felt within seconds to minutes of smoking, vaporizing or dabbing cannabis. These effects can last up to 6 hours or longer.

If you eat or drink cannabis, these effects can occur within 30 minutes to 2 hours and can last up to 12 hours or longer.

EFFECTS ON THE BODY

The short-term effects of cannabis on the body can include:

- damaged blood vessels caused by the smoke⁴
- decreased blood pressure, which can cause people to faint or pass out
- Increased heart rate, which can be a danger for people with heart conditions and can lead to an increased risk of heart attack⁵

¹ Bhattacharyya et al. (2010) Opposite effects of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol on human brain function and psychopathology. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 35(3): 764–74. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/223520724

² Rame et al. (2015) Tobacco and marijuana use among adolescents and young adults: a systematic review of their co-use. *Clinical Psychology Review* 32: 105–121. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/252245559

³ Schauer et al. (2017) Marijuana and tobacco co-administration in blunts, spiffs, and mildred cigarettes: a systematic literature review. *Addictive behaviors*. 64: 2011–211. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27654965

⁴ Wang et al. (2016) One minute of marijuana secondhand smoke exposure substantially impairs vascular endothelial function. *Journal of the American Heart Association*. 5(8). www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/271864788

⁵ Thomas et al. (2014) Adverse cardiovascular, cerebrovascular, and peripheral vascular effects of marijuana inhalation: what cardiologists need to know. *American Journal of Cardiology* 113(1): 187–90. www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24176069



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