

# CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

Council: August 21, 2020

**MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. JACKSON.....**

**SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR.....**

**Amending the Licensing and Application Process for Cannabis Retail Stores to Consider Radial Separation from Other Cannabis Locations**

WHEREAS in late 2018 the Council of the City of Hamilton permitted Cannabis Retail Stores to operate in accordance with the *Cannabis Licence Act, 2018*;

WHEREAS in late 2018 the Council of the City of Hamilton submitted the City of Hamilton Cannabis Policy Statement to the Province of Ontario, along with a request that it be used to guide the Province in making decisions on the approval of cannabis licenses in the City of Hamilton;

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton Cannabis Policy Statement states that Cannabis Retail Stores should not be permitted in areas that already have a high concentration of Cannabis Retail Stores (ie. “clustering” of stores should be avoided);

WHEREAS the Province of Ontario passed O.Reg 468/18 under the *Cannabis Licence Act, 2018* which outlines considerations for issuing Cannabis Retail Stores, but does not include high concentration or radial separation of Cannabis Retail Stores as a consideration;

WHEREAS in early 2019 the Province of Ontario announced that the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) would conduct a lottery to permit 25 private cannabis retail store authorizations two of which went to City of Hamilton locations;

WHEREAS in late 2019 the Province of Ontario announced that the AGCO had been given regulatory authority to open the market for retail cannabis stores beginning in January 2020, without the need for a lottery;

WHEREAS the AGCO has continued to send Cannabis Retail Store applications to the City of Hamilton for the required 15-day comment period;

WHEREAS the City has reviewed 49 Cannabis Retail Store applications for comment since January 2020; and

WHEREAS the AGCO does not take into consideration radial separation for Cannabis Retail Stores.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Mayor contact the Premier of Ontario, Ministry of Attorney General, and local Members of Provincial Parliament to ask that the Province consider amending its licensing and application process for Cannabis Retail Stores to consider radial separation from other cannabis locations.
- (b) That the request be sent to other municipalities in Ontario, including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for their endorsement.
- (c) That Staff be requested to submit heat maps outlining the location of all proposed AGCO Cannabis Retail Store in the City on all AGCO Cannabis Retail Store applications.