
From: Henry Jiun-Hsien Yao <hjhyao@gmail.com>
Sent: July 24, 2026 1:55 PM
To: MayorandCouncillors
Cc: CityClerk
Subject: Petition Submission and Delegation Request: Distance Requirements for Dedicated Vape Retailers

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

You don't often get email from hjhyao@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

City of Richmond Security Warning: This email was sent from an external source outside the City. Please do not click or open attachments unless you recognize the source of this email and the content is safe..

Dear Mayor, Councillors and City Clerk:

I am writing to formally submit my Change.org petition, "Ask Richmond, BC to Keep Vape Stores Away from Child Care Centres and Youth Spaces," and to request an opportunity to appear as a delegation before the appropriate Council standing committee.

As of July 24, 2026, the petition has received 284 signatures:

<https://www.change.org/protectkidsfromvape>

This petition arose after I learned that a dedicated vape retailer was preparing to open directly next to Seedlings Early Childhood Development Hub at 6380 No. 3 Road.

It is important to recognize that Seedlings is not simply a conventional daycare facility. It is a City-owned Early Childhood Development Hub serving infants, toddlers and children up to 12 years of age. Aspire Richmond also operates out-of-school care for children from Kindergarten through Grade 7, including before-school, after-school and full-day school-break programming. Seedlings should therefore be recognized as both a child-care facility and a facility that regularly serves school-aged children and youth.

This situation has exposed a broader policy gap. The concern is not about vilifying one business or demanding an abrupt decision against a particular operator. It is about whether dedicated vape retailers—businesses selling age-restricted products—should be permitted immediately beside facilities specifically created to serve children and youth.

I respectfully request that Council consider the following action:

That staff be directed to review and report back on regulatory options for dedicated vape retailers and other businesses selling age-restricted products, including reasonable minimum separation distances from child-care facilities, schools, playgrounds and other child- and youth-serving spaces.

In addition, I respectfully request that the City review any business licence issued or currently under consideration for the dedicated vape retailer adjacent to Seedlings ECD Hub; confirm compliance with all applicable municipal zoning, business-licensing and signage requirements; identify any relevant provincial regulatory considerations; and advise whether Seedlings' child-care and out-of-school programming was identified and considered during the review process.

Please advise which standing committee would be most appropriate for this delegation. I would also appreciate confirmation of the applicable submission deadline and any requirements for providing the petition's signature record.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jiun-Hsien Henry Yao
Richmond resident
778-887-5098
[hjhyao@gmail.com/](mailto:hjhyao@gmail.com)