

Schedule 8 to the Minutes of the Public Hearing meeting of Richmond City Council held on Tuesday, September 3, 2019.

TO: MAYOR & EACH COUNCILLOR  
FROM: CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Isabel and Marc Brenzinger  
17320 Fedoruk Road  
Richmond B.C. V6V1C7

## ON TABLE ITEM

Date: September 3, 2019  
Meeting: Public Hearing  
Item: 5

September 3, 2019,

City of Richmond  
6911 No. Road  
Richmond, B.C. V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

**Re: Official Community Plan Bylaw 9000, Amendment Bylaw 10061 and Richmond Zoning Bylaw 8500, Amendment Bylaw 10062**

In regards to Cannabis facilities and farm use in the Agriculture Land Reserve we have to do what is in the best interest for everyone who wants to grow and use cannabis and for those that don't want to use or smell cannabis. There is no compromising.

How do we do this? We first need a moratorium on new cannabis facilities or farms setting up in Richmond until the problem of odours is solved. We need to have cannabis facilities or farms where the odour is not harming citizens health, well being and quality of life. Children or those affected by cannabis odour should not have to have to pay the price from cannabis emissions.

Metro Vancouver is having a consultation period on managing emissions from cannabis production and processing operations up to September 30, 2019. Metro Vancouver has said on their website "*emissions from cannabis production and processing include volatile organic compounds (VOC) that can contribute to the formation of harmful ground-level ozone and particulate matter*". They also go on to say that "*cannabis production and processing can also be odorous*". Is this what we want on our community?

Under the Greater Vancouver Regional District Air Quality Management Bylaw No. 1082, 2008 under "**air contaminant**" means any substance that is emitted into the air and that

- (a) *injures or is capable of injuring the health or safety of a person;*
- (b) *injures or is capable of injuring property or any life form;*
- (c) *interferes or is capable of interfering with visibility;*
- (d) *interferes or is capable of interfering with the normal conduct of business;*
- (e) *causes or is capable of causing material physical discomfort to a person; or*
- (f) *damages or is capable of damaging the environment;*

All through Canada there have been reports of citizens suffering from '*material physical discomfort*' from odours from cannabis facilities or cannabis smoke. Even the Richmond News had letters to the editor explaining how cannabis is negatively affecting citizens.

Under the Federal Cannabis Regulation Part 5 Good Production Practices **Filtration of Air section 85** *The building or part of the building where cannabis is produced, packaged, labelled and stored must be equipped with a system that filters air to prevent the escape of odours.* How do you do this on a farm field?

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The setback distance proposed from a cannabis farm to a neighbouring residence, school and business is not enough. You can't contain the cannabis emissions. There is a medical cannabis facility at 6 road near Westminster highway where you can smell the trapped emissions on a calm morning from the facility to Blundell and 4 rd. which is about 2000 metres. Two times the odours from this facility actually came as far as our house which is two kilometres away.

We know all too well after suffering from unprecedented pollution for years here in Richmond that emissions can go as far as ten kilometres. We live in lowlands here in Richmond and tend to get fog, stagnant air (especially in East Richmond) and inversions which traps emissions. Also, strong winds or marine air currents can carry odour to great distances. Basically the location of Richmond is not appropriate for Cannabis facilities or farms at this time.

Could the city of Richmond please answer the following questions or find out?

Was there any public consultation when Health Canada did an assessment of the Cannabis farm at 9 rd and Westminster Hwy? Did the residence near this farm get a letter from the Health Canada? Is there a copy of Health Canada assessment of this facility and is it open to the public? Do citizens that don't want odorous air have any rights?

How was the distance setback from the cannabis farm and the first receptor decided? What criteria was used? The setbacks now will not stop emissions here in Richmond.

These cannabis odours and emissions problems need to be solved before more citizens are negatively affected.

Bottom line is no citizen should be harmed from cannabis odours or emissions which include volatile organic compounds and when mixed with nitrogen oxide and sun it causes harmful ground level ozone. Richmond needs to be the leader and the first to set a precedent in Canada so that all citizens can be in a liveable, healthy environment. Is there an urgency to have facilities popping up in Richmond? If the problem lies with the federal and provincial government lets meet them with our concerns.

Government needs to protect citizens. We have to do what is in the best interest for all citizens. For the common good of citizens we would like the City of Richmond to ask the Federal government for a moratorium on any more Cannabis farms or cannabis facilities until the Federal government can solve the problem of harmful cannabis emissions from escaping from a facility or farm.

We thank you for your attention and consideration for this very important issue.

Sincerely,

*Isabel Brenzinger*