



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HAMILTON

September 8, 2020

Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Room 281
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Honourable Doug Downey
Attorney General
Ministry of the Attorney General
McMurtry-Scott Building
720 Bay Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 2S9

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

Dear Premier & Attorney General,

Hamilton City Council, at its meeting held on August 21, 2020, approved a motion, Item 6.1, which reads as follows:

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 61 Cannabis Retail Store applications for comment since January 2020;

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

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- (a) That the Mayor contact the Premier of Ontario, Ministry of Attorney General, and local Members of 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.

As per the above, we write to request, on behalf of the City of Hamilton, that the appropriate legislative and regulatory changes be made and implemented to the AGCO licensing and application process to take into consideration radial separation for Cannabis Retail Stores as a condition of approval for a license.

Currently the City of Hamilton has reviewed 61 cannabis retail location applications since January 2020. Approximately 12 of these potential locations are within 50m (or less) of each other.

The City of Hamilton appreciates that the AGCO conducts a background search prior to approving any licenses, however the lack of separation between locations poses a community safety issue, as the over saturation in specific area(s)/wards, can negatively impact the surrounding community with increased traffic flow, and an overall “clustering” of stores within a small dense area.

The City of Hamilton is confident that radial separations from cannabis retail locations will have a significant positive impact on the community and allow for its residents to continue to enjoy a safe and healthy community lifestyle.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Eisenberger". The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish at the beginning and a long, horizontal stroke at the end.

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor

C: Hon. Donna Skelly, MPP, Flamborough-Glanbrook

Hon. Andrea Horwath, Leader of the Official Opposition, MPP, Hamilton Centre

Hon. Paul Miller, MPP, Hamilton East-Stoney Creek

Hon. Monique Taylor, MPP, Hamilton Mountain

Hon. Sandy Shaw, MPP, Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas