

November 6, 2019

Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario
90 Sheppard Avenue East
Suite 200-300
Toronto, Ontario
M2N 0A4

Re: Objection to Application File Number 734855

Hello,

As the City of Ottawa Councillor for Ward 9 – Knoxdale-Merivale, I am writing to express my objection in response to the Public Notice for the Cannabis Retail Store Authorization to be located at 1642 Merivale Road, Unit A01014A. Authorizing the proposed retail location may limit the ability to protect Ottawa youth and restrict their access to cannabis. This retail location is contained within a large shopping complex located closer than 150 metres of the property line of a public high school.

In 2018, just over a third (34%) of Ottawa students in Grades 7 to 12 felt that accessing cannabis would be easy or fairly easy.ⁱ This is of concern as evidence demonstrates that harm to health can result for those who start to use cannabis under the age of 25, who use frequently, which is defined as daily or near daily, and those who use products with high levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive component of cannabis.ⁱⁱ Further, regular cannabis use at an early age can increase the likelihood of experiencing mental health challenges, including psychosis and schizophrenia, cannabis dependence, and changes to the brain's structure and function.ⁱⁱ

Cannabis can cause negative health effects, particularly to youth. As the City Councillor for Ward 9, which includes the property of the public high school in close proximity, I am requesting that the AGCO does not authorize the proposed retail location at 1642 Merivale Road Unit A01014A.

If the AGCO authorizes the proposed retail location, it is recommended that additional preventative measures be implemented by the AGCO to mitigate the harms, such as

heightened enforcement that prohibits young people from entering the premise and loitering nearby in order to gain access to cannabis from an adult

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss my recommendation, please contact me directly at Keith.Egli@ottawa.ca.

Sincerely,



Keith Egli
City Councillor, City of Ottawa
Chair, Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit

Cc: Dr. Vera Etches, Medical Officer of Health, City of Ottawa

ⁱ Ottawa Public Health. Public Health Monitoring of Risk Factors in Ontario-OSDUHS (2017). Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; 2018. Survey of Ottawa Residents of Health Risks of Cannabis. EKOS Research Associates Inc. January 4, 2018

ⁱⁱ Fischer B, Russell C, Sabioni P, van den Brink W, Le Foll B, Hall W, Rehm J, & Room R Lower-Risk Cannabis Use Guidelines: A Comprehensive Update of Evidence and Recommendations. 2017. AMJ Public Health;107:e1–e12. doi:10.2105/ AJP.2017.303818.