

MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE



To/Destinataire	Registrar, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario	AGCO License File/N° de fichier: 861233
From/Expéditeur	Marika Atfield Zoning & Interpretation Unit	
Subject/Objet	Cannabis Retail Store Authorization Application	Date: June 29, 2020

A Cannabis Retail Store Authorization Application in the City of Ottawa has been issued for Public Notice by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario. Per the *Cannabis License Act*, a municipality or any other interested party has 15 calendar days to reply based on matters of public interest.

The Provincial legislation provides that the AGCO may not issue a retail store authorization for applications deemed not to be in the “public interest”, which has been defined in s. 10 of Regulation [468/18](#) as meaning:

1. protecting public health and safety,
2. protecting youth and restricting their access to cannabis, and
3. preventing illicit activities in relation to cannabis.

Pursuant to [Council Direction](#) from December 13, 2018, City of Ottawa staff have reviewed the proposed application with respect to matters pertaining to the public interest. **Pursuant to this Council direction, the City of Ottawa OBJECTS to the proposed location.** The Municipal Response is attached.

If you require any clarification or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Marika Atfield
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**City of Ottawa Municipal Response to Cannabis Retail Store Authorization
to Registrar, Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario**

Business Name:	SPIRITLEAF 888 MEADOWLANDS DRIVE EAST
Proposed Address:	888 MEADOWLANDS DR E UNIT 7
AGCO File Number:	861233

Pursuant to [Council Direction](#) from December 13, 2018, City of Ottawa staff have reviewed the proposed application and make the following observations pertaining to the public interest.

Key Principle 1: Prevention of Clustering

A 150 metre distance separation from other Licensed Cannabis Stores is in the public interest, as the Board of Health has noted concerns that excessive clustering and geographic concentration of cannabis retail outlets may encourage undesirable health outcomes.		Applicable?	
a.	Location is within 150 metres of the property boundary of a Cannabis Retail Store approved by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Key Principle 2: Separation from Sensitive Sites

A 150 metre distance separation from sensitive uses including schools and facilities analogous to schools is in the public interest as these provide a community function or are locations where youth congregate. Separation may prevent the normalization of cannabis use.		Applicable?	
a.	Location is within 150 metres of the property boundary of a Public School or known location of a Private School, as defined by the Education Act	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b.	Location is within 150 metres separation distance from a publicly-owned and/or operated recreational facility	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c.	Location is within 150 metres separation distance from a publicly-owned and/or operated community centre	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d.	Location is within 150 metres separation distance from a publicly-owned and/or operated library	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e.	Location is within 150 metres separation distance from an active-use public park	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Key Principle 3: Where Retail is a Permitted/Principal Use

Cannabis retail stores should be restricted to zones of a commercial focus where “retail store” is a principal use in the Zoning By-law. Locations where retail is secondary or accessory to another use are not appropriate, including locations in a residential context.		Applicable?	
a.	Location is in a zone where "retail store" is not permitted as a principal use in the Zoning By-law	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b.	Location is in a residential zone that allows retail, such as LC (local commercial) and small-c (neighbourhood commercial) designated zones.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c.	Location is in a zone that has site-specific conditions and/or exceptions on "retail store" such that a stand-alone cannabis retail store as defined by the Cannabis License Act would not meet the provincial operating requirements.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d.	Location is in a zone where "retail store" is considered a legal non-conforming use.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Key Principle 4: Additional Local Issues to be Noted

AGCO is requested to have regard to any additional local issues not captured by the above, and to take into consideration location concerns from other service providers where a cannabis retail store is proposed within 150m separation of those establishments.
Staff Comments
<p>The proposed establishment is located within 150 metres of an active-use public park (Hogs Back Rideau Canal Locks and Rideau Canoe Club). The proposed establishment is also across the street from a Boys and Girls club where youth congregate. Staff object to the proposal on the basis of the key principles identified above.</p> <p>The zoning of the property is General Mixed Use (GM), which permits retail store as a use.</p>
Ward Councillor Comments
Ward Councillor Riley Brockington’s comments as follows:

I am opposed to the application for a Cannabis Retail License at 888 Meadowlands Drive due to its proximity across the street from the Boys and Girls Club, the Rideau Canoe Club who hosts a number of programs for children, and the proximity to the park space surrounding the area.

I support the opposition of the City of Ottawa, Carleton Heights Area Residents Association as well as the Moffatt Farm Neighbourhood Watch group.

The application does not satisfy the necessary criteria that is needed to approve the license application. I do note that an application was received by my office in April for a cannabis retail license at 800 Hunt Club Road that satisfied all the necessary criteria, was in an appropriate location and was not opposed by local residents and community groups.

I am hopeful that a more suitable location can be found for this license application.