

Cannabis Legalization – Consumption at Festivals and Events (Deferral Request)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report requests a deferral to no later than 2018 June to provide additional time for Administration to continue discussions with the Alberta Cannabis Secretariat (ACS), the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC), and Alberta Health Services (AHS) to address cannabis consumption at festivals and events. Bringing forward a report in 2018 June will also align with a related Motion Arising directing Administration to explore amendments permitting smoking and vaping in specific designated cannabis areas.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION:

That the SPC on Community and Protective Services recommend that Council defer Administration's report on cannabis consumption at festivals and events to no later than 2018 June.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2018 April 05, Council moved to delete Section 4 of the Cannabis Consumption Bylaw 24M2018 related to Events, directing Administration to conduct further consultation with the Government of Alberta and return to Council, through the SPC on Community and Protective Services, no later than 2018 May. Additionally, Council adopted a motion arising, directing Administration to explore amendments permitting smoking and vaping in specific designated cannabis areas, returning directly to council no later than 2018 June.

BACKGROUND

The Cannabis Consumption Bylaw 24M2018 was given three readings on 2018 April 05, however, a section which provided an exemption from the public ban on consumption for festivals and events was removed from the bylaw and Council directed Administration to further consult with the provincial government regarding the exemption prior to returning to the SPC on Community and Protective Services in 2018 May.

In addition to the direction to return to Council through the SPC on Community and Protective Services in 2018 May, Administration was directed through a Motion Arising to explore amendments permitting specific designated cannabis areas, returning directly to Council no later than 2018 June.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Administration has been engaging with the provincial government regularly through the cannabis legalization project. At Council's direction, Administration has initiated further conversations with provincial government representatives regarding cannabis consumption at festivals and events. This has included meetings with representatives from the ACS, the AGLC, and AHS. Internal conversations are also ongoing, particularly with the Interdepartmental Events Team, to determine the impact to City departments allowing for cannabis consumption at festivals and events. As of the time of writing this report, Administration has not yet concluded consultations with our provincial counterparts regarding cannabis consumption at festivals and events.

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In addition to the need for more time to engage with the provincial government, a deferral to 2018 June would align this report with Council's Motion Arising to explore amendments permitting smoking and vaping in specific designated cannabis areas. As these reports are closely related, the deferral would allow Council the opportunity to have a more fulsome discussion about public consumption locations in general, and specifically at festivals and events.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Administration has continued to meet with provincial government representatives regarding cannabis consumption at festivals and events. This has included meetings with representatives from the ACS, the AGLC, and AHS.

Strategic Alignment

The recommendations in this report align with the previously established City of Calgary advocacy positions on cannabis legalization, primarily:

“Engagement and role clarity

Continue to engage municipalities throughout the legalization process to ensure clear delineation of roles and expectations between federal, provincial and municipal governments.”

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

No impact has been identified with respect to this deferral.

Financial Capacity

There are no impacts to current and future budgets with respect to this deferral

Risk Assessment

The federal government has signalled that recreational cannabis will not be legal in Canada until at least eight to 12 weeks after 2018 June 07. As such, there are no risks associated with this request to defer.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

This report requests a deferral to permit Administration additional time to work with the provincial government to address concerns regarding cannabis consumption at festivals and events.

ATTACHMENT(S)

None