

July 23, 2018

The City of Calgary
Office of the Councillors
PO Box 2100, Station M
Calgary AB T2P 2M5

Attn: Councillor Druh Farrell, Ward 7

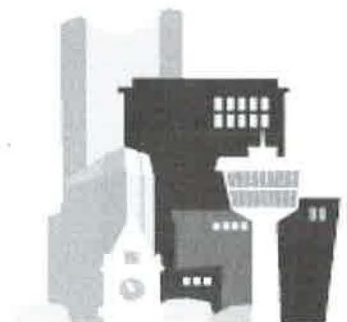
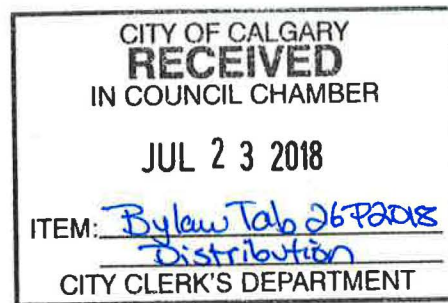
Dear Druh:

Re: Cannabis Stores Within Stephen Avenue Walk and 8th Avenue SW

As Chair of the Urban Development Committee of the Calgary Downtown Association (CDA) Board of Directors, I wish to take this time to express the CDA's concerns regarding the potential of proliferation of Cannabis related uses on along Stephen Avenue and 8th Avenue SW in Calgary's downtown.

Eighth Avenue is a unique street within the downtown core and its character is established through the variety and quality of retail and other mixed commercial at-grade uses along its extent. As a significant component to 8th Avenue SW, the Stephen Avenue pedestrian mall, considered Calgary's major pedestrian mall between the 8th Avenue portion of 4 Street SW and 1 Street SE, possesses some of Calgary's finest restaurants, pubs and cafes within an eclectic mix of boutiques and high-end retail along with hotels, the Glenbow Museum and the Telus Convention Centre. Stephen Avenue also contains a high concentration of registered historic buildings and the street itself was declared a Canadian historic site in 2002. West of the pedestrian only area of Stephen Avenue, 8th Avenue is vibrant with restaurants, the Globe Cinema, etc. and we are encouraged with the emergence of new retailers in Eighth Avenue Place and the soon to be revitalized historic Barron Building along this portion of the avenue.

While the CDA has no interest in restricting Cannabis related uses within all of the downtown core, we are concerned with the number of development permit applications recently received for proposed Cannabis Stores along 8th Avenue SW and particularly within Stephen Avenue Walk. There is concern amongst neighboring businesses about how these stores will contribute to the existing commercial environment and that, in number, do not support the goal of maintaining the desired diversity and mix of quality retail/commercial uses for the street.



While recent amendments to The City of Calgary Land Use Bylaw to accommodate Cannabis related uses do not specify Cannabis Store separation rules from one another within the CR20-C20/R20 land use district, the CDA certainly does not support multiple cannabis store locations within a single block and is also concerned about proliferation of cannabis stores along Stephen Avenue given its National Historic District designation, which merits special attention, and the extended retail areas along the balance of 8th Avenue SW.

In addressing approval for second and third reading of Bylaw 26P2018 Enabling Cannabis Retail Stores and Facilities, we respectfully request that Calgary City Council re-examine the introduction of separation distance for Cannabis Stores and other any other necessary measures and guidelines to avoid the potential for clustering or over concentration of this use along 8th Avenue SW. To respect the unique nature of this street within the downtown, the clustering of cannabis stores, along with the separation from liquor store and pawn shop/payday loan uses, should be taken into consideration to encourage the desired mix of uses and vibrancy of this important street.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Should you require anything further, please contact me directly at (403) 215-1570.

Yours truly,



Eileen Stan
Urban Development Committee Chair

