



Mayor Helps and Council
City of Victoria
No.1 Centennial Square
Victoria, BC, V8W 1P6

June 28th, 2020

Re: Rezoning Application No 00738 for 1400 Quadra Street and 851 Johnson Street

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

The DRA LUC would like to offer support for the Staff recommendation to decline the application. As observed by Staff, the property “is inconsistent with the *Storefront Cannabis Retailer Rezoning Policy*, as there are properties within 400m that are zoned to permit storefront cannabis retailer as a use”.

Proximity rules were established by Council to limit the number of Cannabis retailers to the point that the public is adequately served and operators do not need to sell to minors to make ends meet. There is a strong case that indicates a direct correlation between the viability of these businesses and compliance regarding sale to minors.

It is understood that the application is a relocation of an existing licence within the local area. However, there is no shortage of ground floor retail properties for lease within the Downtown and therefore no apparent impediment for the applicant to seek a location that complies with the current proximity rules. It is important that precedence is not set in relaxing these proximity rules without a compelling rationale. We strongly encourage Council to uphold its wise decision to adopt the 400m proximity rule for Cannabis retailers.

Sincerely,

Ian Sutherland
Chair Land Use Committee, Downtown Residents Association

cc COV Planning