

VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20

May 2, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Supporting the Stop the Violence BC Campaign

Vancouver City Council, at its meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 2012, approved the following:

WHEREAS

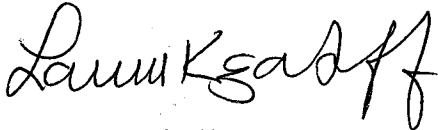
1. Cannabis prohibition efforts have failed to effectively limit the availability of cannabis, especially to our youth;
2. Cannabis prohibition has created a large financial opportunity for organized crime;
3. Many BC municipalities are increasingly affected by the harms of cannabis prohibition (e.g. grow-ops), which negatively impacts community health and safety;
4. The Health Officers Council of BC recommends that a public health-based regulatory framework for cannabis has the potential to reduce rates of cannabis use, raise substantial tax revenue, undermine organized crime and reduce law enforcement time and expenditures;
5. Stop the Violence BC is a coalition of academics, past/present members of law enforcement, and the general public concerned about the links between cannabis prohibition in BC and the growth of organized crime and related violence in the province;
6. Stop the Violence BC, guided by the best available scientific evidence, is calling for cannabis to be governed by a strict regulatory framework aimed at limiting use while also starving organized crime of the profits they currently reap as a result of prohibition;

7. Stop the Violence BC has been endorsed by four former mayors of Vancouver, four former Attorneys-General of British Columbia, and Dr. Perry Kendall, the Chief Provincial Medical Health Officer for BC.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council officially endorse the Stop the Violence BC Campaign, which supports the adoption of a public health-based, regulatory approach to cannabis taxation and control.
- B. THAT the Mayor of the City of Vancouver write to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), and the Provincial and Federal Ministers of Health and Justice to inform them of Vancouver City Council's support.

Yours truly,



Laura Kazakoff
Meeting Coordinator

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