

**Britto, John**

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**From:** Coles, Todd  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 5, 2018 9:34 AM  
**To:** Magnifico, Rose; Britto, John  
**Subject:** Fwd: Vaughan Residents Alliance and Position on Cannabis in Vaughan  
**Attachments:** Cannabis letter final edits Dec 5, 2018.pdf; rkenedy.vcf  
  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed



Todd Coles, BES, ACST(A), MCIP, RPP  
City Clerk  
905-832-8585, ext. 8281 | todd.coles@vaughan.ca  
City of Vaughan | Office of the City Clerk  
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr., Vaughan ON L6A 1T1  
vaughan.ca

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Robert Kenedy" [REDACTED]  
Date: Wed, Dec 5, 2018 at 9:33 AM -0500  
Subject: Re: Vaughan Residents Alliance and Position on Cannabis in Vaughan  
To: "Mackenzie Ridge Rate Payers Association" <mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com>  
Cc: "ROTONDO" [REDACTED], "Kathryn Angus" [REDACTED], "Fred Winegust" [REDACTED], "Maria Verna" [REDACTED], "Beverley Glen Ratepayers" <beverleyglenratepayers@gmail.com>, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], "Mario G. Racco" [REDACTED], [REDACTED], "David Charezenko" [REDACTED], [REDACTED], "cmratepayers@gmail.com" <cmratepayers@gmail.com>, "CPRA" <carryingplaceratepayers@rogers.com>, [REDACTED], "Furio Liberatore" [REDACTED], "Toni Lorini" [REDACTED], [REDACTED], "Richard Lorello" [REDACTED], "Bob Moroz" [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], "mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com" <mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com>, "Rinaldo, Laura" [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], "info@preservethornhillwoods.com" <info@preservethornhillwoods.com>, "SpringFarm RatePayers Assoc" <springfarmra@gmail.com>, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], "Mauti, Mary" [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], "Elvira Caria" [REDACTED], "info@villageofwoodbridge.ca" <info@villageofwoodbridge.ca>, "wwha@wwha.ca" <wwha@wwha.ca>, "Council" <Council@vaughan.ca>,"

"Bevilacqua, Maurizio" <[Maurizio.Bevilacqua@vaughan.ca](mailto:Maurizio.Bevilacqua@vaughan.ca)>, "Ferri, Mario" <[Mario.Ferri@vaughan.ca](mailto:Mario.Ferri@vaughan.ca)>, "Rosati, Gino" <[Gino.Rosati@vaughan.ca](mailto:Gino.Rosati@vaughan.ca)>, "Jackson, Linda" <[Linda.Jackson@vaughan.ca](mailto:Linda.Jackson@vaughan.ca)>, "Iafrate, Marilyn" <[Marilyn.Iafrate@vaughan.ca](mailto:Marilyn.Iafrate@vaughan.ca)>, "Carella, Tony" <[Tony.Carella@vaughan.ca](mailto:Tony.Carella@vaughan.ca)>, "DeFrancesca, Rosanna" <[Rosanna.DeFrancesca@vaughan.ca](mailto:Rosanna.DeFrancesca@vaughan.ca)>, "Racco, Sandra" <[Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca](mailto:Sandra.Racco@vaughan.ca)>, "Shefman, Alan" <[Alan.Shefman@vaughan.ca](mailto:Alan.Shefman@vaughan.ca)>, "Coles, Todd" <[Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca](mailto:Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca)>

December 5, 2018

To: Mayor, Regional and Local Councillors, Todd Coles

Re: Retail Stores For The Selling of Cannabis And The Use of Cannabis in Public Spaces

On October 17<sup>th</sup> we saw recreational cannabis being legalized in Canada and Ontario now allows online purchases, however on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 we will be seeing private retail stores begin to sell cannabis. Leading up to this time, the province has provided the municipalities with a one-time window to opt out of retail sales.

The Vaughan Residents Alliance (VRA) is opposed to retail / wholesale cannabis sales outlets within the City of Vaughan. While we are not opposed to what people do in the privacy of their own homes, the VRA is opposed to the use of cannabis, such as the smoking of cannabis, within City of Vaughan public spaces, especially where children play. We do not believe that taxpayers should be burdened with the added social, regulatory and by-law enforcement costs incurred by allowing retail cannabis sales outlets to operate. We feel that the 150-meter distance from the property line or from a public or private school is not adequate, the hours of the retail stores are not reflective of regular store hours, and will incur added security and staff training requirements. Also noted, is the fact that municipalities have a limited authority to pass by-laws to further restrict the locations where cannabis can be used which could be a stumbling block when trying to reign in the areas available for smoking cannabis, and cigarettes.

It is for the reasons above, that our Alliance is opposed to allowing retail stores to sell cannabis in the City of Vaughan.

Sincerely

Vaughan Residents Alliance  
Kathryn Angus, KARA  
Robert A. Kenedy, MRRA  
Richard Lorello, KARA  
Furio Liberatore, FGTR  
Laura Rinaldi, SMRA  
Bob Moroz, KVG  
Tony Alati, CPRA  
Gary Wan, UTCA  
Elvira Caria, VWRA  
Mary Mauti, VRA

Donna Rotondo, KARA

Robert Aaron Kenedy, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
McLaughlin College  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3  
CANADA

On 2018-12-04 9:46 p.m., Robert Kenedy wrote:

Good Evening,

Apologies for the short notice, but for those interested, we are submitting the attached letter to council tomorrow morning at 9am for the Committee as a Whole meeting at 1pm.

If you want to be included as a signing organization, please let us know by 8am tomorrow.

Best,

Robert Aaron Kenedy, PhD  
Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology  
McLaughlin College  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, Ontario M3J 1P3  
CANADA

On 2018-11-15 8:22 p.m., ROTONDO wrote:

Hello all,

It appears that municipalities have until Jan 22/19 to opt out of cannabis to be sold.

Therefore, I believe that it's vital to move on this issue quickly.

FYI,

Donna

On Nov 15, 2018, at 4:14 PM, Robert Kenedy wrote:

Dear KRA members,

The Mackenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association Board also voted not have Cannabis Outlets in our area. We also support banning smoking



October 11, 2018

Dear Municipal Candidate:

I am following up on a previous letter regarding Premier Doug Ford's flawed scheme to download private cannabis shops onto municipalities. It has come to my attention that some municipal councils are unaware of their options. I also want to share results of a Nanos poll that OPSEU commissioned so you and every municipal leader are equipped to make the best possible decision for the people in your communities.

Once you opt into the private, for-profit cannabis retail model, you effectively relinquish all further control. The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) will issue licences. If council objects to an applicant, the number of cannabis shops, or their location, you can try writing to the AGCO. That's it.

To add insult to injury, you will be the ones picking up the hefty tab for regulation enforcement, whether through the police or bylaw inspectors, not to mention social costs. In other words, when the Premier sends the cannabis circus into your community, your only role will be to clean up the mess.

However, Doug Ford is giving municipalities a one-time option: Opt out by January 22, 2019, or you're in. It's like the negative-billing ploy Rogers tried years ago: Do nothing, and you're stuck with the bill.

That's why I urge you, when elected to municipal council, to stand up for your communities and opt out of private cannabis shops now. You can always opt in, but after January 22, you can never opt out. The sale and consumption of cannabis may come with untold social and fiscal repercussions. There is no need to rush in. Take your time and observe the impact on the municipalities that have opted in. Judge for yourself whether this is something that will improve the quality of life for your residents.

But I suggest a third and better way: retrofitting existing LCBO outlets to distribute cannabis. Why? Because LCBO staff have a proven track record when it comes to selling responsibly. They will stock only legally sourced and tested product from approved suppliers. Your enforcement costs will be vastly diminished, and safety and security will be better assured.

Still unconvinced? A recent Nanos poll says half of people aged 55 and up – the demographic most likely to vote – are less or somewhat less likely to vote for candidates who favour private cannabis sales. Just one in four say the opposite. Only one third of all voters are more or somewhat more likely to vote for candidates in favour of private cannabis. Further, Ontarians are 11 times more likely to choose the LCBO over private stores to keep cannabis out of kids' hands. Visit [responsibleplan.ca](http://responsibleplan.ca) for more information.

I urge you to opt out of privatized cannabis now. Then tell the Premier you don't want private, for-profit outlets operating wherever the AGCO dictates. Tell him the responsible public option is the safest, most trusted means of selling cannabis – and that you need and want that option for your residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren Thomas", written in a cursive style.

Warren (Smokey) Thomas  
President, Ontario Public Service Employees Union

# RESPONSIBLE PLAN

Dear candidate,

On behalf of Caroline Portelli, we are forwarding this concerned message about private cannabis stores.

Dear Municipal Candidate:

The issue of cannabis sales is of great importance to me. I want to ensure that my loved ones and my community are shielded, to the greatest extent possible, from the negative impacts of private, for-profit cannabis sales.

I am very concerned that private cannabis entrepreneurs will be strongly tempted to look the other way when selling to underage youth and intoxicated persons in order to maximize profits. Enforcement is expensive and is limited.

Furthermore, the province has removed any cap on the number of cannabis stores. How will municipalities, particularly those already struggling financially, be able to enforce the regulations?

As you know, the Ontario government has given municipalities until January 22, 2019, to opt out of private cannabis stores. If they don't opt out by then, they will have to accept as many cannabis stores as the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario chooses – with no say in the matter.

If you're elected, I urge you to opt out of private cannabis stores immediately. This will give you time to evaluate the impact on municipalities that have opted in. If they are struggling with financial and social costs, you can choose to continue to opt out and help spare our people from those negative impacts.

I also propose a better, safer and more responsible way to sell cannabis. A recent Nanos poll indicates that Ontarians are 11 times more likely to trust the LCBO to sell cannabis than private retailers. That's because of the LCBO's long and proven track record when it comes to selling alcohol responsibly.

Furthermore, Ontarians are almost four times more likely to think the LCBO would generate more public revenue from the sale of cannabis than private stores. I think so, too. I want the profits from cannabis sales to go towards building up our hospitals, schools and infrastructure.

That's why I ask you to do the right thing before making any decision to opt in. Consult extensively with residents and businesses. Find out what they think is best for the community. Take your time to see how private cannabis stores impact municipalities that have opted in.

Furthermore, I ask that council pass a motion demanding the LCBO option. It doesn't require bricks and mortar. A part of the existing LCBOs can be sectioned off for cannabis sales. Residents will be able to sleep more soundly knowing that the wild west of cannabis has not overrun their community.

As an elected representative, your number-one responsibility is to look to the security and well-being of the residents of this municipality. I strongly believe that the private, for-profit cannabis retail model threatens the safety and stability of our community. The best way forward is clear: opt out of private pot shops now and demand that the government offer the proven, trusted option – the responsible public option. I await your early reply.

Caroline Portelli  
Vaughan, City of  
info@responsibleplan.ca  
OPSEU  
100 Lesmill Rd.  
Toronto, ON M3B 3P8

December 5, 2018

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