

Subject:

Committee of the Whole Item 1 Retail / Recreational Cannabis

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Communication
COUNCIL: Dec 12/18
CW Rpt. No. 29 Item 1

From: Richard Lorello [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, December 7, 2018 12:08 PM

To: Council <Council@vaughan.ca>; Coles, Todd <Todd.Coles@vaughan.ca>

Cc: Robert Kenedy [REDACTED]; Kathryn Angus [REDACTED]; Laura Rinaldo [REDACTED]; Maria Verna [REDACTED]; Elvira Caria [REDACTED]; Bob Moroz [REDACTED]; Furio Liberatore [REDACTED]; Gary Wan [REDACTED]; Tony Alati [REDACTED]; Nick Pinto [REDACTED]; Richard Rodaro [REDACTED]; Tim Kelly [REDACTED]; Pam Taraday [REDACTED]

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Good morning Mr. Coles. Please post this communications in advance of the next council meeting.

Good morning Mayor and Members of Council

I have viewed the committee of the whole video regarding the decision to opt in or out of corner store / retail cannabis.

In many ways the retail cannabis decision is similar and just as important a decision as was the decision to allow casinos in Vaughan. In my view both decisions have or had the ability to alter the direction, vision, perception and complexion of our City.

In the days and weeks leading up to the ground breaking decision to allow casinos within the City of Vaughan there was at least one evening public hearing scheduled to allow residents to come before council to voice their concerns to allow casinos to operate in our city.

The decision to opt in or out of retail cannabis in Vaughan has the same effect of changing the direction, vision, perception and complexion of our city. It is a ground breaking a decision that may have undetermined effects and merits at least one evening public hearing to give residents an opportunity to speak on this critical decision. This is far too important a decision for council to make on its own.

Conducting polls and resident surveys is not enough. We must allow people to voice their views directly to council in a public forum.

As I write this email I am not aware of any plans to hold such a public meeting, however I am formally requesting that one be held to involve the broader community on this crucial decision. Council has an obligation to hear directly from its residents on critical matters such as this.

It is my understanding that we have until January 22, 2019 to make our decision to opt in or out of retail cannabis stores. In my view, this allows for more than enough time to schedule an evening public hearing on this important issue, prior to rendering a decision.

Quite frankly, I cannot see any reason why we would not engage our residents in more meaningful way, such as a public hearing.

Sincerely
Richard T. Lorello