



MOTION ON NOTICE

Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on 2019-01-28

Future of the 420 Cannabis Event

MOVER: Commissioner Barker

WHEREAS:

1. 420 organizers intend to hold their annual event at Sunset Beach again in 2019 for the fourth year running;
2. On March 29, 2017, Vancouver City Council considered a motion to work with 420 organizers to identify an appropriate non-residential City site where the event could be held instead of Sunset Beach. The motion was referred to staff for consideration pending the anticipated legal framework for cannabis to be implemented by the Government of Canada;
3. With the legalization of cannabis on October 17, 2018 by the Federal Government, there is now a legal framework in place governing the production, sale, possession and use of cannabis;
4. During the 2018 event, VPD counted 482 vendor tents. 420 organizers generate revenue from fees paid by vendors. The sale of cannabis and cannabis related products at events such as 420 is not permissible under the new legal framework. Cannabis products can only legally be purchased through government licensed outlets;
5. Smoking or vaping cannabis in parks and on beaches is prohibited under the Cannabis Control and Licensing Act as well as the Park Board Smoking Regulation Bylaw; and
6. Disregard for local resident and public complaints and concerns about the disruption caused by 420 needs to be addressed. There is a growing frustration from residents that concerns are not being heard or acted upon.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT based on the new legal framework now in place, the Vancouver Park Board direct staff to explore options available to preclude sale of cannabis and cannabis related products at the upcoming 2019 420 event;
- B. THAT staff send a letter to Mayor Kennedy Stewart and Vancouver City Council to request a continuation of the exploration of alternate venues within the City of Vancouver in order to move this event to a more appropriate location that will not cause disruption to West End area residents, seawall users and Vancouver Aquatic Centre patrons, with the goal of having this event relocated by 2020; and
- C. THAT staff prioritize all possible means to minimize impacts on local residents in regard to air quality, noise and music levels, traffic disruption, and restricted access to the seawall.