MOTION

Moved by: Ron Starr
Seconded: Carolyn Parrish

WHEREAS the use of cannabis products is legal in Canada;

WHEREAS the sale of cannabis products is legal through stores approved by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) as appointed by the Government of Ontario;

WHEREAS The Council of the City of Mississauga passed a resolution to prohibit retail cannabis stores within the City, December 2018 and again June 9, 2021;

WHEREAS under the Municipal Act 2001 municipalities are the exclusive authority for zoning and the licensing of businesses within their jurisdictions;

WHEREAS the Province lifted the cap on the number of licences that can be issued by AGCO March 2, 2019 resulting in the number of stores in Ontario increasing from 30 to 772 as of June 9, 2021;

WHEREAS the AGCO website shows it is approving approximately 30 new locations per week and has not refused a single application based on an objection presented by a Municipal Council including 29 objections by the City of Hamilton which has 47 cannabis stores;

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Mississauga is extremely concerned about the proximity of legal cannabis stores to playgrounds, counselling facilities, child care and community centres to name a few sensitive sites;

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Mississauga regulates the "clustering" of a variety of businesses and services such as group homes, dental clinics, veterinary hospitals etc. but has no local say on the concentration of legal cannabis stores in our City;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

A request on behalf of the Council of the City of Mississauga be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario asking for a reconsideration of the exclusive powers of the AGCO regarding the zoning of legal cannabis stores, recognizing the traditional role of municipalities in such matters as number and location of retail businesses; and further

This motion be sent to the Cities of Oakville, Markham and Vaughan as well as to the six MPPs for the City of Mississauga and the Leaders of all Provincial Parties.