

Report to Council



Date: May 27, 2019
File: TA18 - 0008
To: City Manager
From: Community Planning Department
Subject: Retail Cannabis Sales Update
Report Prepared by: Jocelyn Black

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Community Planning Department dated May 27, 2019, with respect to an update on retail cannabis applications;

AND THAT Council endorses the recommendation of Staff to move forward with the standard rezoning process on retail cannabis applications, as outlined in the report from Community Planning Department dated May 27, 2019.

Purpose:

To receive an update on the status of retail cannabis applications following the initial application intake process, and to endorse the proposed application intake process moving forward.

Background:

Between October 1 and November 31 2018, thirty-five (35) retail cannabis rezoning applications were received by Community Planning. The evaluations were undertaken by a staff committee with 3rd party oversight. The scoring matrix was a Council endorsed process in which an independent consultant oversaw the evaluation and prioritization of applications. Following the evaluation committees review, fifteen (15) applications were initially accepted. Of these, eleven (11) applications were accepted to move forward through the standard rezoning process and four (4) were accepted to move forward through the standing rezoning process by lottery.

A total of seven (7) retail cannabis sales applications have received adoption through the City's standard rezoning process. These applications are subsequently required to receive approval from the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.

Two (2) applications have recently received second and third reading following a Public Hearing of Council on May 21, 2019, while a total of six (6) applications are currently instream with the Community Planning Department.

Summary of application status:

Current Application Status	Number of Applications
Retail cannabis sales applications that have received adoption of the bylaw	7
Currently in the adoption stage with Council	2
Instream applications	6

In March, 2019, all thirty-five (35) applicants received a notification of the scores pertaining to each application. Applicants who were not selected to move forward were not charged the cannabis retail sales application fee. The Community Planning Department has now completed the initial application intake process.

Next Steps

Rezoning applications for retail cannabis are now being accepted by Community Planning on a first-come, first-served basis and will be evaluated as per the standard rezoning application process in accordance with the Development Application Procedures Bylaw, along with cannabis use specific merits as per 'Schedule A' of this report.

Applicants who did not receive approval to move forward in the initial intake have the opportunity to reapply by submitting a text amendment and rezoning application. A text amendment is required for all applications that are located within 500m of another retail cannabis establishment.

Application fees will remain the same and will be evaluated in 2020.

Submitted by:

J. Black, Planner Specialist

Approved for inclusion: D. Strachan, Manager of Suburban and Rural Planning

Attachments:

Schedule A- Retail Cannabis Sales Requirements

cc:

R. Smith, Divisional Director, Planning & Development Services

G. Wise, Business License Manager