Greetings Mayor and Council,

Please see the attached memo from Jerry Dobrovolny providing an update on recent enforcement activity at 800 Robson Plaza (the south side of the Vancouver Art Gallery) to address unpermitted cannabis vending. A short summary of the memos is as follows:

There have been a growing number of vendors who have set up tables and tents to sell cannabis products on the 800 Robson Plaza; they are unpermitted and operating without a business license. In response, the City has initiated stepped up enforcement efforts with the aim of eliminating this unpermitted vending from the area. The enforcement approach has involved progressive escalation to encourage vendors to leave the space on their own. The City is leading this bylaw enforcement through the Engineering department and in partnership with Development, Buildings and Licensing department. Staff are receiving support from Vancouver Police Department to maintain public safety and order.

Should you have any questions, please contact Margaret Wittgens, Director of Public Space and Street Use, at 604-673-8227 or margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca.

Best,
Sadhu

Sadhu Aufochs Johnston | City Manager
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12th Avenue
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4
604.873.7627 | Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca
Twitter: sadhuajohnston

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

CC: Sadhu Johnston, City Manager
    Paul Mochrie, Deputy City Manager
    Janice MacKenzie, City Clerk
    Lynda Graves, Manager, Administration Services, City Manager's Office
    Rena Kendall-Craden, Director, Communications
    Kevin Quinlan, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
    Naveen Girn, Director of Community Relations, Mayor's Office
    Margaret Wittgens, Director of Public Space & Street Use, Engineering Services

FROM: Jerry Dobrovolny, General Manager of Engineering Services

SUBJECT: By-law Enforcement of Unpermitted Cannabis Vending on 800 Robson

This memo provides an update on recent enforcement activity at 800 Robson Plaza (the south side of the Vancouver Art Gallery) to address unpermitted cannabis vending.

A street vending permit and business license are required to sell any product on City streets. There have been a growing number of vendors who have set up tables and tents to sell cannabis products on the 800 Robson Plaza; they are unpermitted and operating without a business license. The City has been working with these vendors to communicate relevant bylaws, and to encourage voluntary compliance. In spite of this communication, both the number of vendors and frequency of this activity have increased in recent weeks which is negatively affecting the ability of others to enjoy the space and has led to a growing number of complaints.

In response, the City has initiated stepped up enforcement efforts with the aim of eliminating this unpermitted vending from the area. The enforcement approach has involved progressive escalation to encourage vendors to leave the space on their own. Verbal and written warnings were initiated in early November. Those who have not responded to the verbal and written
warnings may have their tents impounded and receive a ticket for operating without a business license.

The City is leading this bylaw enforcement through the Engineering Department and in partnership with Development, Buildings and Licensing Department. Staff are receiving support from Vancouver Police Department to maintain public safety and order.

For questions, please contact Margaret Wittgens, Director of Public Space and Street Use, at 604-673-8227 or margaret.wittgens@vancouver.ca.

Jerry W. Dobrovolny, P. Eng., MBA
General Manager of Engineering Services
(T) 604.873.7331
(E) jerry.dobrovolny@vancouver.ca