



Corporate *NO: R028*

Report *COUNCIL DATE: February 17, 2003*

REGULAR			
TO:	Mayor & Council	DATE:	February 12, 2003
FROM:	City Solicitor	FILE:	3900-20-13680
SUBJECT:	Business License By-law, 1999, No. 13680 - Methadone Dispensaries		

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council adopt the amendments to Business License By-law, 1999, No. 13680 to include new conditions of business operation in relation to methadone dispensaries and drug stores as set out in the attached Appendix "1".

INTENT

This report imposes a new business license condition on all drug stores and methadone dispensaries. This condition requires the consumption of all methadone prescriptions on premises in the presence of a pharmacist so that no take away prescriptions can be filled.

DISCUSSION

There is a growing body of evidence that most methadone prescriptions given for off premises consumption simply end up feeding the consumption of other drugs and causing death or injury from methadone overdoses. The take away prescriptions are sold providing the currency for purchases of heroin, crack cocaine and methamphetamine. The widespread sale of methadone prescriptions, without medical supervision, to third parties is now resulting in overdoses and in some cases death, particularly when methadone is combined with alcohol or other drugs.

The trafficking in methadone prescriptions in a neighbourhood with an over-concentration of methadone dispensaries is also contributing to higher policing, City by-law enforcement, works staff and fire services costs. These City services are responding to serious drug related crime problems and urban blight.

CONCLUSION

This new business licensing condition will hopefully contribute to reduction in the non-medical use of methadone and the trafficking of methadone prescriptions.

CRAIG MacFARLANE

City Solicitor

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Attach.

c.c. John Sherstone, Manager By-laws & Licensing Section

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APPENDIX "1"

Proposed Amendments to Surrey Business

License By-law, 1999, No. 13680,

as amended (the "By-law")

The By-law be further amended as follows:

1. By adding a new definition to Section 2 immediately after the definition of "Dining Room" and before "Exotic Performer" as follows:

"Drug Store" means a retail store or pharmacy that fills a broad range of prescriptions and devotes at least 65% of its gross floor area to the display and sale of health and beauty products and general merchandise.

2. By adding a new definition to Section 2 immediately after the definition of "Mail Drop Service" and before "Miscellaneous" as follows:

"Methadone Dispensary" means premises in the business of selling or filling methadone prescriptions for customers as the primary purpose of the business, but excludes a drug store or pharmacy that fills a broad range of prescriptions and devotes at least 65% of its gross floor area to the display and sale of health and beauty products and general merchandise.

3. By adding a new Section 54.1 immediately following the existing Section 54:

Methadone

54.1 No person shall prescribe, sell, give or provide in any manner whatsoever methadone for consumption anywhere but on the premises of the methadone dispensary or a drug store.

4. By renumbering the existing Section 54.1 to 54.2.