

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town Takes Action on Medical Cannabis Production Facilities

(East Gwillimbury, ON) - June 17, 2020 – The Town of East Gwillimbury is taking action against properties in Town where personal medical licenses are being used to establish significant cannabis production facilities without required municipal approvals such as zoning permissions, building permits, and Emergency Services inspections.

In response on June 9, 2020, Council approved an Interim Control By-law (ICBL) to freeze the development of such facilities in order to provide the Town with an opportunity to determine how these facilities can be appropriately regulated. Following the issuance of the ICBL, charges have been filed with the Provincial Offences Court for violation of the Zoning By-law, specifically for operating facilities contrary to the Planning Act. The Town is also working with external advisors to obtain orders against continuing production and construction.

“These are complex, multijurisdictional matters,” said Mayor Virginia Hackson. “There has been a number of facilities proceeding without proper municipal approvals and therefore, we are prosecuting under the Building Code Act and the Municipal Act. Our residents’ health and safety is our number one concern and so we will continue to take the appropriate actions to ensure we are protecting our community.”

Staff will use the duration of the ICBL period to undertake a land use study and consult with the public to determine how cannabis production facilities can be more appropriately regulated within Town. The land use study will result in the implementation of a Zoning By-law Amendment and other land use policy or licensing regulations to effectively manage cannabis production facilities within Town.

Staff will also continue to work collaboratively with York Regional Police and neighbouring municipalities on enforcement matters.

Council is requesting that if anyone has questions or concerns about a facility that appears to be proceeding without the necessary permissions and approvals should email the Town’s By-law department at bylaws@eastgwillimbury.ca or contact the Municipal Enforcement branch directly at 905-478-4282 ext. 1123. For more information residents are encouraged to visit www.eastgwillimbury.ca/cannabis.

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For more information:

Laura Hanna, Director of Communications and Customer Service
905-478- 4283 ext. 3854
lhanna@eastgwillimbury.ca