Dear Mayor Taylor, Deputy Mayor Vegh and members of the Council,

108 Health Promotion Association & Residents Object to the Private Retailing of Cannabis in Newmarket

Cannabis legalization has been a hot topic in the community. One of the mandates in the 108 Health Promotion Association’s Constitution is to promote health and longevity. Some of our members have gotten together so that we can express our concerns in this letter. We have also collected 88 signatures (please see attached). The following summarizes the opinions of some of the members’ strong objection to opting in for private retailing of cannabis in Newmarket:

1. Newmarket cannot opt out after opting in.

2. People can grow cannabis and get access to it online already. There is no need to expose this to young children. This risk is perpetual based on the no opting out rule.

3. The economic benefits to Newmarket will be negligible (e.g. the initial payment of $75,216 is only 0.059% of 2018 expenditures). There is also no guarantee that we will even be able to get any money at all from the Federal Government after 2020.

4. The health and social impacts of cannabis is inconclusive at this point. Arguments can be made both ways depending on what research you are quoting and who is doing the presentation. We need to be conservative, responsible and be more protective of our children and grand children because our decision will have lasting effects on many future generations.

5. There are potential negative effects on the already slow real estate market and real estate value.

6. We respect each other’s freedom. There is no need to affect other peoples’ rights by smoking or vaping in public.

7. There are examples of undesirable but allowable retail locations. There is one in CopperHills, a 5-year-old subdivision with young families and children. It is located around 700 Metres to the Frank Stronach Park and Splash Pad.

We are at an important crossroad. This major decision will have lasting social and health effects for generations to come. We want to appeal to you so that this long-term decision can be objective and conservative. To the undersigned, the tremendous risks
outweigh the limited benefits for a few, we trust that you will make an objective decision for the future of Newmarket.

Thank you in advance for your kind attention and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely yours,

Members of the 108 Health Promotion Association & Newmarket Residents