

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK POLICE SERVICES BOARD

RESOLUTION MARIHUANA MEDICAL ACCESS REGULATIONS – LICENSED MARIHUANA GROW OPERATIONS

WHEREAS in June 2001, the federal government implemented the Marihuana Medical Access Regulations (MMAR) which allows for licensed marihuana grow operations. The MMAR authorizes Health Canada to issue licenses to possess, as well as produce, marihuana for persons with certain medical conditions. It also allows for designated third parties to produce marihuana for persons with medical conditions.

AND WHEREAS the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board recognizes that there are substantial health risks associated with indoor marihuana grow operations, legal or illegal, due to mould, elevated levels of carbon dioxide, electrical hazards and other chemicals and pesticides used to foster plant growth.

AND WHEREAS administered by Health Canada, the MMAR do not supersede other legislation including municipal by-laws. Individuals licensed under the MMAR are required to observe all other laws such as zoning, fire and electrical regulations. Health Canada maintains that it is not part of their mandate to verify the safety standards of each production site.

AND WHEREAS there is no mechanism in place to ensure that individuals licensed to grow marihuana under the MMAR adhere to federal, provincial laws and municipal building, fire and electrical regulations. Consequently, there is an increased and unaddressed risk to building occupants and others including emergency personnel.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board calls upon Health Canada to require electrical, fire and building inspections as a condition of licensing to produce marihuana in accordance with MMAR.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board calls upon Health Canada to notify local governments and police services of locations licensed to produce marihuana in accordance with MMAR, therefore, enabling regional and municipal authorities to ensure sites are compliant with pertinent laws and regulations.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Regional Municipality of York Police Services Board calls upon the Canadian Association of Police Boards to express their support of this resolution.