



100 John West Way  
Aurora, Ontario  
L4G 6J1  
(905) 727-3123  
aurora.ca

Town of Aurora

## Member Motion

Councillor Gallo

---

**Re:** Cannabis Retail Review Task Force

**To:** Members of Council

**From:** Councillor John Gallo

**Date:** October 14, 2025

---

Whereas the Town of Aurora opted in to the licensing and operation of retail cannabis stores within the municipality following the introduction of the provincial cannabis retail framework; and

Whereas several retail cannabis locations have since opened within the Town, providing legal access to cannabis products for residents and contributing to local economic activity; and

Whereas Council has received feedback from residents expressing both support and concern regarding the number, location, and community impacts of cannabis retail stores; and

Whereas municipalities currently have limited authority under the provincial regulatory framework to influence the siting and density of cannabis retail stores, but continue to play an important role in community engagement, by-law enforcement, public education, and advocacy to higher levels of government; and

Whereas it is in the Town's interest to review the local impacts of retail cannabis stores social, economic, and community, since opting in, and to identify potential strategies or advocacy opportunities to address any issues that have arisen;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That a Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be established to:

- a) Review the experience of the Town of Aurora since opting in to retail cannabis stores; and

- b) Identify issues that have arisen related to public safety, land use, business clustering, signage, community perception, and economic development; and
  - c) Explore best practices from other municipalities regarding cannabis retail management and community engagement; and
  - d) Provide recommendations to Council on potential actions or advocacy initiatives to address identified challenges and support balanced community outcomes; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the Task Force shall include:
    - Two (2) Members of Council, appointed by Council; and
    - Up to seven (7) Resident Representatives, selected through an open call for applications, appointed by Council; and
    - Two (2) Members of Town Staff, including representatives from Planning and By-law Services; and
    - A member of York Regional Police; and
  3. Be It Further Resolved That the Task Force shall be supported by Town staff for administrative and technical assistance; and
  4. Be It Further Resolved That the Task Force will be established and start February 2026; and
  5. Be It Further Resolved That the Task Force shall report back to Council with findings and recommendations within six (6) months of its first meeting; and
  6. Be It Further Resolved That Council direct staff to prepare Terms of Reference for the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force, for approval at a subsequent Council meeting.



## 8. Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of October 14, 2025

**Moved by** Councillor Gilliland

**Seconded by** Councillor Thompson

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting Report of October 14, 2025, be received and the recommendations carried by the Committee approved, with the exception of sub-items 8.3.2, 8.7.1 and 8.8.1 which were discussed and voted on separately as recorded below.

Yeas (7): Mayor Mrakas, Councillor Weese, Councillor Gilliland, Councillor Gaertner, Councillor Thompson, Councillor Gallo, and Councillor Kim

**Carried (7 to 0)**

## 8.9 Member Motions

### 8.9.5 Councillor Gallo; Re: Cannabis Retail Review Task Force

Whereas the Town of Aurora opted in to the licensing and operation of retail cannabis stores within the municipality following the introduction of the provincial cannabis retail framework; and

Whereas several retail cannabis locations have since opened within the Town, providing legal access to cannabis products for residents and contributing to local economic activity; and

Whereas Council has received feedback from residents expressing both support and concern regarding the number, location, and community impacts of cannabis retail stores; and

Whereas municipalities currently have limited authority under the provincial regulatory framework to influence the siting and density of cannabis retail stores, but continue to play an important role in community engagement, by-law enforcement, public education, and advocacy to higher levels of government; and

Whereas it is in the Town's interest to review the local impacts of retail cannabis stores social, economic, and community, since opting in, and to identify potential strategies or advocacy opportunities to address any issues that have arisen;

1. Now Therefore Be It Hereby Resolved That a Cannabis Retail Review Task Force be established to:
  - a. Review the experience of the Town of Aurora since opting in to retail cannabis stores; and
  - b. Identify issues that have arisen related to public safety, land use, business clustering, signage, community perception, and economic development; and
  - c. Explore best practices from other municipalities regarding cannabis retail management and community engagement; and
  - d. Provide recommendations to Council on potential actions or advocacy initiatives to address identified challenges and support balanced community outcomes; and
2. Be It Further Resolved That the Task Force shall include:
  - Two (2) Members of Council, appointed by Council; and
  - Up to seven (7) Resident Representatives, selected through an open call for applications, appointed by Council; and
  - Two (2) Members of Town Staff, including representatives from Planning and By-law Services; and
  - A member of York Regional Police; and
3. Be It Further Resolved That the Task Force shall be supported by Town staff for administrative and technical assistance; and
4. Be It Further Resolved That the Task Force will be established and start February 2026; and
5. Be It Further Resolved That the Task Force shall report back to Council with findings and recommendations within six (6) months of its first meeting; and
6. Be It Further Resolved That Council direct staff to prepare Terms of Reference for the Cannabis Retail Review Task Force, for approval at a subsequent Council meeting.

**Carried**