

PORTMAN ENTERPRISES

2934 LINCOLN AVE

ALAMEDA, CA 94501

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To: Mayor Trish Spencer
Vice Mayor Malia Vella
Council Member Jim Oddie
Council Member Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Council Member Frank Matarrese
Director of Community Development Debbie Potter
Community Development Manager Lois Butler
City Attorney John Le

From: Mark Hersman
Carrie Tillman
Nick Portolese

Date: November 7, 2018

Topic: Cannabis Ordinances

Dear City Leaders,

As we approach final passage of the updated cannabis ordinances, it's come to our attention that a handful of local anti-cannabis citizens have made a last minute appeal to broaden the definition of "sensitive use sites" which require a 600 foot buffer zone around a retail cannabis dispensary in order to protect children from exposure to cannabis. As you consider this last minute appeal, we ask that you also consider the following facts.

- It has now been two years since Council Member Oddie first submitted the referral to consider cannabis business presence on the island. We cannabis business operators have been waiting patiently, and there clearly has been enough time for public comment on this issue.
- Retail cannabis dispensaries must comply with the following safeguards in an effort to keep cannabis out of the hands of children
 - Exterior windows must be opaque with no cannabis products visible from the street
 - Signage must be minimal and approved by the planning department, and must conform with community standards
 - ID's are checked at the door by a licensed security guard

- Upon entry to the dispensary, that ID is then scanned and the customer/patient is recorded as having visited the dispensary (a “track and trace” requirement)
 - All cannabis products are lab tested for purity and potency, and labeled as such
 - All cannabis products must be sold in child resistant packaging
- The application for a conditional use permit allows neighbors and businesses within 300 feet of the operation to weigh in on the establishment of a retail dispensary

As long term Alameda residents and parents of children ourselves, we at Portman Enterprises share these concerns regarding keeping cannabis out of the hands of children. Anecdotal evidence, coupled with scientific studies, shows that cannabis has real therapeutic benefits for adult patients with a wide array of ailments, and new uses and discoveries for the therapeutic use of cannabis are happening in real time. We are committed to providing cannabis, and cannabis information, that promotes medical, wellness, and responsible use by our patients and customers.

In conclusion, we believe that the safeguards noted above provide the best possible balance between safe access for adults who should be free to make choices about how they treat their own ailments, and the protection of children. Prohibition has clearly failed, and we are striving to advance a solution that will replace illegal street dealers, many of whom have no reservations about supplying cannabis to our children, with regulated and responsible businesses. We thank you for your thoughtful and constructive approach to this issue, and sincerely ask that you not backtrack on this progress in the final hours.

Sincerely,

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