

de la Guerra, Sheila

Public Comment-Group 3

#4



From: Wendy Davis <wendy.davis@pilatesanytime.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:07 PM
To: sbcob; Williams, Das; Lavagnino, Steve; Hartmann, Joan; Adam, Peter; Hart, Gregg
Subject: Cannabis retail store

Categories: Public Comment

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I work at the Pilates Studio on Santa Claus Lane and have witnessed the number of young children, teenagers, and families that frequent the beach. I think the Lane is a poor choice for a cannabis store, just as a store at East or West beach would be negative.

Perhaps consider Calle Real as a location.

Thank you for your consideration.

Wendy Davis
Summerland

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Lisa Bodrogi <lisa@cuvee.me>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:11 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Storefront Cannabis
Attachments: LettertoBOS.docx

Categories: Public Comment

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Please find my Letter to the Board of Supervisors for their hearing item #4 on tomorrow's agenda.

Lisa Bodrogi
Cell: 805-260-2461
e-mail: lisa@cuvee.me



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August 17, 2020

Santa Barbara County
Board of Supervisors
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the issuance of a Retail Cannabis Dispensary within the Orcutt Community Plan area. While I am not against cannabis in general, I do think there are locations that are better suited than others for this type of activity.

The Old Town Market location is a far cry from suitable and compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. The thought of a Cannabis Dispensary in the Old Town Market provides a perfect example of what not to do within the Orcutt Community Plan area. Your Board should move forward sooner than later ranking this location to confirm it does not meet the Neighborhood Compatibility or Business Operators criteria. It should be clear to the potential operators and the community that a cannabis dispensary located within the Old Town Market will not meet the eligibility due to a lack of neighborhood compatibility.

The Old Town Market is the hallmark of the Old Town. It is at the heart of the heart of Orcutt. A neighborhood market at this location has provided a valuable service to Orcutt residents since the 1940's. This local grocery store is vital for the health and wellbeing of our community. Senior citizens and young families alike can walk or ride their bikes to this corner market to get necessary provisions.

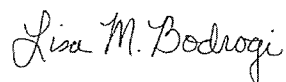
Criteria to determine eligibility to issue **one** Cannabis Storefront should clearly rule out Old Town market as a location. As the County moves forward in identifying parameters for the siting of a Storefront Retail Cannabis Dispensary in the Orcutt Community Plan area, here are some ideas that would accomplish this:

- A Storefront Retail Cannabis Dispensary (SRCD) should not be located along the main street frontage or within a focal point that defines Old Town Orcutt.
- The SRCD should not occupy buildings that have 25 or more years of an established historical use.
- The SRCD should not be located along streets that are commonly used for student transportation to and from elementary, junior high, and high school students.
- A SRCD should not require customers to travel more than a ¼ mile along a main arterial road from a major highway or freeway.

- A SRCD should not be issued to a Cannabis Operator who has a criminal record or is a known violator of City, County, or State regulations.
- Renewal of an Annual Business License for a SRCD should take into account all types of nuisance complaints. At present, the renewal process only and exclusively refers to odor complaints. However, complaints associated with non-compliance with conditions, disorderly conduct, loitering, illegal parking, and the like, should also be specifically noted as a basis to reject renewal of a SRCD business license.

I have lived, worked, and raised my family in Orcutt for nearly 30 years. We moved to Orcutt due to the excellent schools and the opportunity for our children to walk or ride their bike to school. Please consider my request to expedite/accelerate the Scoring process for the Old Town Market and consider these parameters when deciding the appropriate location within the Orcutt Community.

Kindly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Bodrogi".

Lisa M. Bodrogi

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Marc Chytilo <marc@lomcsb.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:45 PM
To: sbcob
Cc: Williams, Das; Lavagnino, Steve; Hartmann, Joan; Hart, Gregg; Adam, Peter
Subject: Item # 4 - 8/18/20

Categories: Public Comment

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I submit this comment as an individual.

The metrics proposed for evaluating potential dispensary applicants in the unincorporated County lack Social Equity Priority criteria and specific priorities for Black owned businesses and businesses owned and managed by members of other disadvantaged communities. These programs are critically needed for two reasons. First, they can help remediate the disproportionate impact that the war on drugs and a biased criminal justice system has caused communities of color. Second, prioritization for Black-owned businesses, in particular, is needed because of the dominant, nearly exclusive stranglehold that White-owned businesses and large corporate entities maintain over the burgeoning cannabis industry. See <https://portside.org/video/2020-05-29/legal-marijuana-industry-rigged-hasan-minhaj>. Active intervention is needed to avoid compounding racial inequities.

While the State has only paid lip-service to using cannabis entitlements to address social inequities, (<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/social-equity-programs-in-cannabis-59749/>), many cities and communities have adopted specific programs to prioritize the distribution of cannabis entitlements to Black and minority businesses. Programs have been developed in the cities of Coachella, Los Angeles, Chicago, Oakland, San Francisco, Grand Rapids Iowa and many others

The County's management of a Social Equity Priority must not propose relaxing community compatibility standards for these preferred businesses, but should prioritize awards of these valuable entitlements to Black businesses. The County, cities, and the local cannabis community must collaborate to develop "wrap around services" to support Black and minority owned cannabis entitlement applicants. See the comments of struggling Black entrepreneurs in Hasan Minihaj's Patriot Act episode linked above for a description of how Black and minority businesses seeking to enter this market need technical, financial, legal and land use assistance to compete with the small number of large, well financed White-controlled corporations that currently dominate the cannabis industry, nationally and locally.

Relevant references include <https://endinsider.com/tag/social-equity/> ("States must legalize cannabis with social equity in mind: allowing small growers, and people of color, not strictly wealthy corporations, access into the market."); <https://cannabis.lacity.org/licensing/social-equity-program> ("The Social Equity Program (SEP) is one tool the City of Los Angeles is using to begin to acknowledge and repair the harm caused by the War on Drugs and the disparate enforcement of cannabis prohibition. The goal of the Social Equity Program is, "to promote equitable ownership and employment opportunities in the cannabis industry in order to decrease disparities in life outcomes for marginalized communities, and to address the disproportionate impacts of the War on Drugs in those communities."") <https://cannabis.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2019/07/City-of-Coachella-Cannabis-Social-Equity-Program.pdf> ("Staff has developed the attached, Cannabis Social Equity Program ("Program"), set forth in ("Exhibit A"). The Program

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Tamara De Matteo <tamdmtt@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:26 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Cannabis store on Santa Claus Lane

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To who whom this may concern:

My name is Tammy DeMatteo, I own The Garden Market here on Santa Claus Lane.

I am reaching out to you county supervisors with my concerns for a cannabis store on the Lane. Santa Claus Lane has for many years been a family fun place to visit and all of us owners have worked hard to maintain the experience our families have when coming down here.

1) Parking: Our parking is probably the biggest concern. Our customers tell us all the time how difficult it is to find parking. The lane is one way and it can be difficult waiting for parking. A cannabis store would only increase the traffic and make parking difficult for our customers. We have all worked very hard over the years to cultivate good customer relations and parking is critical to maintain our customer base.

2) Safety: This being a family friendly place, we have so many children down here and I just don't think this is a good choice to blend in with what we have created here. All of us business owners are concerned for the safety of our stores and our Padaro friends who live here and frequent our stores are concerned what mix of people would come here and what risk there might be.

3) We have all been thru the fires, the flooding, and we are dealing with the 101 project, as well as the Lane being re done. We are all concerned for our businesses to survive what is coming and to now consider a cannabis store, that has nothing to compliment what we have all worked so hard to build is just unacceptable. Please consider what this may do to the businesses who have been here all these years.

de la Guerra, Sheila

From: Geiger Family <doddbeth@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 3:19 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Cannabis store locations

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

To Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

We would like to express our opposition to a Cannabis storefront on Santa Claus Lane in Carpinteria. This entire street is extremely congested and does not have enough parking for the existing retail spaces. In addition, Santa Claus Lane is used by many families for beach access as well as surf camps for children, and family-friendly dining. The street itself is very busy with traffic heading to the southbound freeway entrance at the end of the lane. This proposal seems very out of character for this family oriented area; we strongly oppose using Santa Claus Lane for a Cannabis retail space.

Thank you for your consideration,

Beth and Dodd Geiger

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Leslie Robinson <lrobinson323@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:52 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Storefront Retail Cannabis Hearing - Board of Supervisors August 18, 2020

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Supervisors:

I am a resident of Summerland. I appreciate the efforts of County Staff to inform us about the process for locating retail cannabis stores in Santa Barbara County and approving retail cannabis operators. As part of this process, we residents were invited to submit our comments and to participate in the virtual Cannabis Retail Meeting. We also received from County Staff a Survey asking again for our input on the specific criteria for locating a retail cannabis store in Summerland and requesting us to provide the County with the reasons why we think such a store would benefit our community. I submitted comments, participated in the virtual meeting and completed the Survey - all expressing my opposition to a retail cannabis store in Summerland.

I am sure the County Staff has been working very diligently on this issue. There is, however, a fundamental problem that must be addressed. At no point has the County Staff indicated to us that they are interested in whether or not our community is in favor of having a retail cannabis store in Summerland. The entire approach appears to assume that there will be a retail cannabis store in Summerland. The only input that the community gets to have applies to a vague notion of "neighborhood compatibility" regarding the final location for this store.

The Survey Report submitted by the Summerland Cannabis Committee clearly shows that the vast majority of the Summerland community is opposed to having a retail cannabis store in Summerland. There is no benefit whatsoever to Summerland.

I am asking that you, as the Board of Supervisors, take very seriously the desires of the citizens of your county in this regard. Otherwise, the County's process for approving retail cannabis stores in Santa Barbara County will not be transparent and informed as required by the Grand Jury Report.

Thank you for your consideration,
(Mrs.) Leslie Robinson

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Graham Farrar <Graham@thefarmacysb.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 4:54 PM
To: Hartmann, Joan; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve
Cc: Melekian, Barney; Yee, Steven H - CEO; Elliott, Darcel; sbcob; Nelson, Bob; Litten, Jefferson; Bantilan, Cory; Henson, Chris
Subject: Public Comment D4

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Supervisors,

We are interested in applying for a storefront retail in the Summerland/Toro Canyon Community Plan area but ask your Board to consider delaying the application submittal period - currently scheduled for "early September 2020."

We are currently only two weeks away from the submittal deadline of early September. We respectfully ask the Board to consider a new extended deadline of Mid October. Given that the Criteria Based Scoresheet for both the Business Operations and Neighborhood Compatibility are just now being finalized, we believe that all stakeholders (both applicants and County Staff) would appreciate some additional time to review the approved Scoresheets. It has been difficult to begin to prepare the application without the finalization of this scoresheet.

Furthermore, we have found it challenging to conduct community outreach during COVID-19. Neighbor and stakeholder support is really important to us.

We have followed the staff-lead community outreach virtual community meetings, unfortunately, we do not believe that this virtual process has lead to feedback that is representative of the community. For example, the questions and format (especially in the original community survey) were leading and encouraged respondents to raise concerns about parking, crime, and other negative impacts where they might not have otherwise had them. Also, we would note, all issues that have ben entirely absent from our dispensary operation in the City of Santa Barbara. The survey also seemed to ask for feedback regarding appropriate locations, although that determination was already made via the adoption of the zoning in the CZO/LUDC in 2017.

We have noted both the support and the concerns from the community, we have significant first hand experience with the concerns that have been expressed that come predominantly from lack of complete information and education. All issues that can be addressed with more information, via concrete examples, given the time and ability (taking COVID into consideration) to hear and respond to them.

After successfully operating The Pharmacy for 1 year - the first licensed adult-use retail storefront in the City of Santa Barbara - we can unequivocally say that parking, crime, noise and loitering have not been an issue. This is evidenced by our robust support from our local business neighbors, including The Daily Grind, Taffy's Pizza, and many others.

At The Pharmacy, we have rolled out local business partnership programs, designed to encourage our customers to patron our neighbor's businesses (e.g. McConnells, Daily Grind). The Pharmacy provides proof of concept that cannabis retail actually enhances the local neighborhood, not detracts from it.

We believe all applicants county-wide, not just us, would benefit from a time-extension, in light of COVID-19. This would also provide staff with additional time to seek feedback from a representative sample of the community.

In summary, if provided additional time, we are hopefully that we can conduct additional outreach to interested stakeholders. For example, we look forward to welcoming additional concerned residents on a tour of The Pharmacy to observe our operations first hand. The community deserves to have their questions heard and responded to, something that takes additional time and planning with COVID.

The County has done an extraordinary job developing regulations for storefront retail, including several iterations of the selection/scoring program. It would be a shame to end up with less storefront retail than the community truly wants as reflected by their overwhelming support and approval of Proposition 64 in 2016. The vast majority of voters and constituents support cannabis, and want local, convenient access to safe, legal and local cannabis.

Thank you for your consideration,

Graham Farrar

Ramirez, Angelica

From: Sam Holcombe <aframesam@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 6:50 PM
To: Williams, Das; Cannabis Info; sbcob
Subject: Opposition to Cannabis store on Santa Claus Lane
Attachments: image1.jpeg; ATT00001.txt

Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi there!

My name is Sam Holcombe. My wife and I own the A-Frame Surf Shop on Santa Claus lane and we are Strongly Opposed to putting a Cannabis Retail location on Santa Claus Lane.

We have been there for over 21 years providing Surfing lessons for kids and adults year round but most importantly Regarding the Cannabis Retail, in the summer time there are 10's of thousands of kids and families walking up and down Santa Claus Lane every day! I have attached a picture taken from in front of our store this past weekend showing Zero available parking spots (other than mine, which I pay an employee to stand and monitor) cars double parked and families walking all over. The idea that a business that would require 24 hour armed guards in an environment like that is just absolutely CRAZY.

We also 100% agree w all the other reasons that our property owner Dr. Steve Kent I know has detailed for your groups. Please Do Not Let This Happen.

We respectfully appreciate you taking the time to hear our opinion and we really hope that you agree that Santa Claus Lane Is Not the right location for a business like this.

Thank you

Sam & Robin Holcombe

