

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: donna downs <carpdowns@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 1:34 PM
To: Hartmann, Joan; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve
Subject: Public Comment 8/20 Item D2 3561 Foothill

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.

August 13 2019

Public Comment
Agenda Item D2
3561 Foothill Road; G&K Farm/K&G Flower

Honorable Board of Supervisors

My name is Donna Downs and I have lived in Carpinteria for 27 years. I am invested and active in the community. I have served on the Board of Girls Inc Carpinteria and currently serve on the Girls Inc facility committee and on the board of the Carpinteria Woman's Club. Carpinteria is a community of passionate and caring citizens that have accomplished so much by working together. I value this community and want its citizens to all thrive. I am unable to attend the meeting as I am out of town but want my voice heard on this matter.

I support Graham Farrar and his proposed project at 3561 Foothill Road, and ask you to deny the appeal. G&K Farm/K&G Flower is a prospective farm and does not have any active cannabis cultivation currently taking place. The site only consists of vacant greenhouse infrastructure (left over from the declining cut flower industry) that is turnkey for cannabis growing. Therefore, the claims in the appeal related to impacts from smell, and accusations of reliance on a false affidavit, are unsupported by the facts.

Graham first applied for the cannabis permit back in December of last year. He has waited to put plants in the ground until he receives the required permits and licenses from the County, and is going through the process in good faith. This project conforms to the County standards and requirements, and should be approved.

As a resident in Carpinteria, I can tell you that the odor in Carpinteria has drastically improved. Although you may smell a mild scent here or there, it is not disruptive to my quality of life or health. Graham has taken the initiative to install best available odor control technology at his farm, which has been independently evaluated by a Professional Engineer. I trust that this will be effective in mitigating odors, once the farm is operational.

Cannabis cultivation has already brought immense benefits to our community in the form of jobs, access to safe, locally and sustainably grown medical cannabis, economic stimulation, and tax revenue for the County, which provides critical services for all residents, including those living in the City boundaries.

The growth of this industry has also helped keep many agricultural properties in active farming, and helped avoid pressures for conversion from greenhouses to other development. Cannabis is just the newest agricultural crop. I encourage you commission and the County to embrace this new industry, and support local farmers.

Thank you,
Donna Downs

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: PETER JACOBSON <peterjacobson66@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 1:28 PM
To: jHartman@countyofsb.org; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve
Cc: Bozanich, Dennis; sbcob; Litten, Jefferson; Elliott, Darcel; Nelson, Bob; Bantilan, Cory; Plowman, Lisa
Subject: Public Comment 8/20 Item D2 3561 Foothill

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.

Honorable Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to deny the appeal of G&K Farm/K&G Flower at 3561 Foothill Road. As a long time resident, and local developer, I am supportive of Graham Farrar, the applicant of the proposed project. I build residential homes and co-own The Mill on Laguna and Haley. I also taught Middle East History at SBCC for twelve years. My wife Madeleine has been involved in the philanthropic community and was the Board President of the SBCC Foundation from 2013-2016.

Graham is a local entrepreneur, with a proven track record of launching and growing several successful businesses. He was a founding employee at Sonos, and Software.com, and also the Founder of iStoryTime, an award-winning app for youth education. Graham is now applying his expertise and executive leadership to the cannabis industry.

Graham is also the owner and founder of “The Farmacy” – one of only three allowable cannabis storefront retail permits in the City of Santa Barbara. Graham secured this permit throughout a lengthy, and competitive, merit-based process, where he beat out over 60 other applicants, by submitting a superior business plan with strong safety measures and a community integration plan.

With this new industry, comes responsibility. Graham is exactly the type of leader who is up to this challenge. He will work tirelessly with the County and community to operate his farm to the highest standards, as well as be a good neighbor.

I support the new cannabis industry, and especially operators who are committed to setting a new bar for this industry. Santa Barbara County residents need the jobs, economic benefits and tax revenue from cannabis. The voters overwhelmingly supported legalization of cannabis in Santa Barbara County. Now that the County has established standards, and permit process for these cannabis growers, it’s time we let them get started.

The claims in the appeal are inaccurate and have been proven irrelevant by staff. We urge to you to support the staff recommendation and deny the appeal. Please support local entrepreneurs, like Graham, who have submitted project proposals that comply with the County ordinances.

Sincerely,

Peter Jacobson
805-708-1313

Lenzi, Chelsea

From: Jason Rodriguez <jason@thefoodliaison.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2019 11:01 AM
To: Hartmann, Joan; Williams, Das; Hart, Gregg; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve
Cc: Bozanich, Dennis; sbcob; Litten, Jefferson; Elliott, Darcel; Nelson, Bob; Bantilan, Cory; Plowman, Lisa
Subject: Public Comment 8/20 Item D2 3561 Foothill
Attachments: Board of Supervisors Hearing August 20th 2019.pdf

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.

Board of Supervisors,

Please see attached letter asking you to deny the appeal of the proposed project G&K Farm/K&G Produce at 3561 Foothill Road in Carpinteria.

Jason Rodriguez | CFO | The Food Liaison | jason@thefoodliaison.com | (661) 917-2028 cell



August 13, 2019

Board of Supervisors,

I'm supportive of the proposed project G&K Farm/K&G Produce at 3561 Foothill Road and encourage you to deny the appeal. I'm the co-owner of The Food Liaison in Carpinteria, a restaurant and catering company. We employ 24 people and have been in operation since 2013. I know Graham Farrar, the owner/operator of the farm at 3561 Foothill Road. Graham is born and raised in Santa Barbara, a local entrepreneur, father, and friend. He is a responsible business operator who will abide by the County and State regulations for cannabis – exactly the type of business owner we want in our community.

As a local business owner, I support responsible cannabis in Carpinteria. Cannabis farms provide high paying jobs to local residents, who stimulate our local economy here in Carpinteria, including my restaurant. For example, I've noticed an increase in customers lately from many of the cannabis businesses. This is good for our local community.

I appreciate that many of the cannabis farmers are committed to giving back to the community, including Graham, and have made donations to important causes to our local community including the high school college tours, Santa Barbara Birth Center, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Christmas in July, and others. The cannabis operators like Graham, who are following the rules, are some of our communities best role models both in their philanthropic efforts, and desire to not just abide by the laws themselves, but to encourage others to follow suit to improve the quality of life in Carpinteria.

I also support the cannabis industry because it helps keep our agricultural community in farming. The cut flower industry is dying, and the cannabis industry is helping to keep our agricultural properties, and greenhouses, in agriculture.

I live in Carpinteria, and have a family here. I can tell you that the complaints about the odor are inaccurate. There may be a mild scent here or there, but the odor has greatly improved, and is far from devastating to our quality of life or health. Graham has taken the initiative to install the best available odor control technology – as required by the county – even though his farm is not yet operational.

Graham has been participating in the County's permitting process in good faith since December 2018. He has submitted a project proposal which meets all the standards and requirements set by the County. He should be eligible to start growing if he is following the rules. The County should not slow down, or penalize applicants who are trying to do the right thing and secure the required permits and licenses.

In conclusion, please approve G&K Farm/K&G Produce at 3561 Foothill Road and deny the appeal. The vast majority of residents in Carpinteria voted to legalize cannabis and support responsible farmers who have applied for permits in good faith and are committed to being good neighbors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jason Rodriguez".

JASON RODRIGUEZ

CO-OWNER/CFO