

Ramirez, Angelica

General Public Comment

From: Rob Salomon <robb.salomon@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2022 11:35 AM
To: Lavagnino, Steve; Nelson, Bob; Hartmann, Joan; Supervisor Das Williams; Hart, Gregg
Cc: Villalobos, David; sbcob
Subject: Santa Claus Lane Dispensary Site

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<https://mjbizdaily.com/new-rash-of-california-cannabis-robberies-threaten-survival-of-some-businesses/>

<https://news.yahoo.com/man-shot-killed-during-robbery-160700895.html>

<https://www.cannabisbusinesstimes.com/article/los-angeles-marijuana-dispensary-shooting-killed-tarzana/>

Dear Supervisors and Planning Commissioners,

May 12, 2022

The sites above will take you to articles about the shooting of an armed/armored guard during the robbery of an LA cannabis dispensary as well as an article about the alarming frequency of violence and crime in and around cannabis dispensaries. I urge each of you to at least skim them. If you read the police reports in the Coastal News, you know the reports are dominated by drug related incidents. It doesn't take much imagination to predict that a Santa Claus Lane cannabis dispensary will increase the frequency of even more violent and tragic drug-related incidents.

Many objections to the proposed Santa Claus location are being put forth, traffic, community character, and strong neighborhood opposition. I want to focus attention on the risk of violent crime that cannabis dispensaries seem to invite.

These articles are particularly relevant for Santa Claus Lane. The proposed location presents a perfect storm for crime, violence and tragedy. It is a freeway on-ramp with the 101 only 200+- yards from the proposed dispensary, making a getaway easy and fast. The dispensary will hold both a lot of cash and valuable, untraceable merchandise. The combination of large numbers of families and young and teen age kids, on the beach, in surf camps and at the Padaro Grill, in conjunction with dispensaries that apparently need guards who are both armed and wearing bulletproof vests is horribly incongruous and a setup for tragedy. That the Santa Claus location makes it an obvious target for thieves and a serious endangerment to everyone in the area should make the decision to reject the site obvious, if not mandatory.

Those involved in the final approval must understand that any tragedy emerging from the presence of a cannabis dispensary on the proposed Santa Claus Lane site was reasonably predictable. In politics, one hears a lot of "we must take steps so it (the tragedy) will never happen again". The risk of violent crime here is very clear, the potential for tragedy very real, so in this instance those involved in the final approval have a responsibility to ensure, or at the very least maximize the likelihood, that "it does not happen the first time".

Respectfully,

Rob & Sharon Salomon, residents of Carpinteria