

My name is John Greene (G-R-E-E-N-E) and I am speaking to Committee Report #3.

I am the founder and CEO of The Greenway Wellness Foundation, a wellness center and medical marijuana dispensary. Throughout the last year, we have conducted an exhaustive search of the City of Cambridge's Medical Marijuana Districts to identify a site that is suitable for a medical marijuana dispensary. After reviewing dozens of locations, we signed a letter of intent to lease 61 Mooney Street in the Cambridge Highlands neighborhood. The property is located at the end of an industrial zone in a building that was previously utilized as a high-security pharmaceutical production plant, and has existing infrastructure that complements our security needs.

Since selecting this location, The Greenway team has canvassed the area five times to engage with local residents and answer any questions they have. We have spoken at meetings of the neighborhood association and business association and made ourselves as available to the community to ensure that the Cambridge Highlands neighborhoods views The Greenway as a good neighbor and community partner. As a result, we have several letters of support from the neighborhood on behalf of our petition to locate our dispensary at this location.

As you know, on June 27, 2014, The Greenway Wellness Foundation received a letter from the Department of Public Health indicating that our dispensary was not selected to receive a Provisional Certificate of Registration. This judgment was made on an assertion that The Greenway Wellness Foundation did not hold sufficient funds "in its control or available...to ensure that the applicant has sufficient resources to operate". Although The Greenway had the required funds in its control through custodial agreements in accordance with the regulations set forth by the Department, we experienced difficulty establishing and maintaining relationships with banking institutions. Many banks indicated that they were unwilling to maintain a relationship with The Greenway due to concern about the possibility of violating banking statutes by accepting money from an activity that was considered illegal under federal statute.

To alleviate the concerns raised by the Department of Public Health, The Greenway is working to establish a banking relationship with Century Bank of Medford, Massachusetts. Century Bank recently developed a program through which medical marijuana dispensaries can deposit monies into an account to demonstrate financial viability to the Department of Public Health. In order to avoid potential violations of federal statute, dispensaries are prohibited from conducting other financial transactions through this account. Until The Greenway has been approved for this account, we will be holding \$650,000.00 in a personal deposit account at Century Bank.

Due to The Greenway's ability to demonstrate financial viability to the Department of Public Health through this new account classification, we feel confident about our informal review scheduled for July 31, 2014. As such, we intend to continue pursuing our petition for a zoning amendment to extend the Medical Marijuana district to encompass 61 Mooney Street and we will be vigorously pursuing remedies that will allow us to proceed with the siting at this location. We ask you to vote yes on the proposed zoning today. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.