

December 1, 2015

Dear Members of the Council:

Re: Medical Marijuana Dispensary Zoning Question

I am at a complete loss as to the planning process regarding the location of a voter-approved medical marijuana dispensary in the City of Cambridge.

I was unable to attend the council meeting at which this subject was discussed several weeks ago, but it is obvious that the delay in finding an appropriate location results from a degree of unjustified fear that the facility is somehow dangerous to the health and well-being of the citizens of Cambridge and would somehow have a negative affect on abutting neighborhoods, religious institutions, and the welfare of children whose schools and bus stops might be within a certain distance of such a facility. I hope that the Ordinance Committee hearing on December 10 will serve to clarify the zoning issues and move this project forward at last.

In the meantime, please consider the statistics below for institutions and vendors in the City of Cambridge that provide, dispense, sell, or prescribe addictive substances. All data, where I can find it, is taken from the City of Cambridge website and the Six City Tobacco Initiative, which covers licensing in Cambridge as well as five other cities and towns.

Number of venues licensed that sell:

Alcoholic beverages

Clubs:		12
Educational institutions:		7
Hotels and Inns:		10
VFW Posts:		1
Restaurants/Bars:	approx.	100
Package stores:	approx.	45

Tobacco products: 86

Then add to the list the other providers of addictive substances, for which precise statistics are almost impossible to determine:

Pharmacies

Major Hospitals/satellite locations

Cambridge Health Alliance

Mount Auburn Hospital

Sancta Maria Hospital

Spaulding Rehabilitation for Continuing Medical Care/

Youville House Assisted Living

Private physicians' offices

Private dentists' offices

Drug rehabilitation facilities

Nursing homes/Hospices

In short, there is not one private or public school, school bus stop, day-care center, or religious institution in the City of Cambridge that is not a stone's throw away from a venue that offers addictive substances to the public, either through official licensing or accepted practice.

It is, therefore, absurd that one voter-approved medical marijuana dispensary should occasion such disorganized thinking and possible prejudice amongst members of the Ordinance Committee, the Planning Board, and the City Council.

Finally, next time you exit City Hall, take a moment to look up and read the city's motto over the front door: ***God has given Commandments unto Men. From these Commandments Men have framed Laws by which to be governed. It is honorable and praiseworthy to faithfully serve the people by helping to administer these Laws. If the Laws are not enforced, the People are not well governed.***

Through lack of rational thought, dawdling and delaying for **two years** the enforcement of the **voter-approved** medical marijuana dispensary law, it seems to me that in this instance you are not governing rationally or efficiently.

Sincerely,

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