

Dear Amy Wolfson; and Planning Commissioners Dan Thiem, Chair; Stuart Lauters, Vice-Chair; Skyler Moon; Gail Damskey,

As you know, I have given you input before regarding the proposed Nevada City Planning Commission Cannabis Ordinance. Assuming you will count only one public input from each person in your tallies regarding possible changes in the ordinance, I respectfully request that my input from this letter be the one that you count for me because you need to know and understand what residents, employers, and employees of Nevada City are saying to their neighbors and to me.

I will restrict my comments here to what I have heard from residents and businesses while walking all the neighborhood streets adjacent to the Light Industrial areas inside the Nevada City limits, which is where a Medical Cannabis Dispensary is allowed according to the proposed ordinance. These people who live and work in Nevada City are your constituents, the ones you and your office represent. Please keep in mind we are made up mostly of small adjacent neighborhoods, within the limited space of our two square miles, which includes schools, churches, some social agencies including rehab. centers, a few parks, with a relatively few other small family businesses in the mix. That, and downtown, which is off-limits in this ordinance, is Nevada City, which we love to live, work, and play in every day. We residents have strong opinions regarding our surroundings from a unique perspective; we are counting on you to seriously consider some changes that need to be made in the ordinance as a result of their/our input. You will see below that only one person I could contact in all of the vulnerable neighborhoods is in favor of using the ordinance at all.

My own personal and professional experiences in Hawaii for 30 years and in Nevada City for close to 20 years with marijuana as I have had contact with marijuana users who are students, adults, and a family member for whom it was a gateway drug, leading all the way to heroin, will have to wait for another time.

The one universal comment I heard from absolutely everyone, with only one exception, was "I don't want it in Nevada City and I especially not in my neighborhood/near my business". The three specific comments I heard over and over and over again from residents and businesses were, "It is too late because a MMJ Dispensary is already in the works so our comments wouldn't even count"; "it will never happen"; or very rarely, "Ok I'll go to a meeting or I will give public input". Businesses with only a few exceptions, were not willing to give public comment due to the fear of losing their livelihood. Other comments I occasionally heard from residents is they are already obtaining the marijuana products they desire through the internet, in "classy" MMJ Dispensaries located in other cities, including Sacramento and North San Juan. One grandma waiting for her grandchild at Laura Bishop's Dance studio proudly told me her husband does not get high because the marijuana he needs without THC is located in North San Juan. I have passed this information on to several interested people I have encountered.

These are specific comments from specific people I encountered inside the Nevada City limits on specific neighborhood streets that will be most affected if the ordinance is in fact used:

Hoover St., between Deer Creek, Seven Hills Intermediate School, also where the building for social services and preschool serving Disabled children is located

At the Forum, I was lectured by one of the lawyers that it is "ok" to have a dispensary on Hoover St., even though he knew it is between Deer Creek Elementary School and Seven Hills Intermediate School because the distance in the ordinance is 600 ft. from a school and there will be a setback for the Dispensary from Hoover Street.

input from school administrators other personnel who work there and residents who live there: Not one resident or school personnel was in favor of this location. They specifically mentioned that everyone can clearly see Hoover is a walkway, bikeway, and traffic pattern for parents to drop off and pick up their kids every weekday and therefore is an unsuitable environment for any business, and is especially inappropriate for a marijuana business, medical or not.

They used the phrase "a danger to children and families" frequently.

Input from parents meeting and picking up their children who had walked from Deer Creek and Seven Hills Schools and who were picking up those children in the SPD parking lot was universally negative for this location. Many mentioned the danger of resale by people with scripts who would see this whole area around the schools as an easy target for the availability of youth-friendly edibles, topicals, and other marijuana products to be re-sold for profit either in this particular location or elsewhere inside Nevada City. No one had a solution for enforcement against this real possibility, which would increase with the input of additional drugs from a dispensary inside our 2 square mile boundary.

Two administrators in this area told me that just last week a girl brought to school lollipops laced with marijuana and distributed them to friends at school before adults were able to discover and put a stop to it. Both of them mentioned their concern regarding the availability of edibles, topicals, and other food-like mj products that are already in our community, not regulated nor labeled, and how impossible it is to enforce the distribution of these products that youth can be so attracted to and vulnerable to.

the corner of Hoover and Brock Sts., a residence zoned Light Industrial

Input from the resident at this location

She is a senior citizen who said they are a "marijuana family" and stated that she is able to get her needs met via the internet. She seemed amused to think about a dispensary in her neighborhood. Frankly, I wondered if she were offered enough money if she would persuade her husband, who owns the property on this corner to put a dispensary right there.

Brock Street

Input from residents:

Not one resident on this street was in favor of a dispensary at all in Nevada City. Most residents said they had lived in this established Nevada City neighborhood for decades and did not want it here "nor anywhere inside our little town". They all expressed concern over the close proximity to schools and, again, for the hoards of children from nearby schools who gather at SPD for periods of time after school without parental supervision before their parents pick them up. I did

encounter two young adults walking together who lived on a nearby street who said they were surprised and seemed intrigued to learn of the possibility of a MMJ Dispensary near where they lived.

Providence Mine

Input from businesses

I did not find one business nor customer who was in favor of having a MMJ dispensary on or ear this street.

Grass Valley Hwy. and Lower Grass Valley Hwy and Ridge Road

input from a Sierra Presbyterian Church

Their concerns center around Sonshine Preschool and a Youth building, both on their property. They also mentioned the close proximity of this possible location for a MMJD to youth building on their property, barely 600 ft. away, as well as additional youth walking and biking along Ridge Road on the other side of their property to and from Deer Creek and Seven Hills Intermediate School. The pastor and representatives from their church have attended Planning Commission meetings and will give their own written input.

Input from Robinson Enterprises

I talked with two owners there, both several times as information became available from the Planning Commission process. One of the owners, attended one of the Planning Commission meetings and spoke, Tim Robinson. Their company who is one of the biggest tax contributors to Nevada City have concerns regarding the neighboring businesses who universally are opposed, and safety concerns regarding their huge logging and gas trucks and traffic issues which would inevitably occur if there is a MMJD at the top of the street where they are located on Lower Grass Valley Highway.

Input from residents:

No resident wants more traffic on Grass Valley Highway which would necessarily be generated from a MMJD location which could be accessed from both of these roads. Some are also concerned about the safety of their own neighborhood as well as the safety of the youth who will attend the new alternative school which soon will be located on the corners of Grass Valley Highway and Ridge Road, not far from the possible MMJD accessible from both of these streets. Easy access for youth directly from their school through their neighborhoods is a concern for residents.

Searles St, Argall St, Perseverance St. and Mine Court Rd. -

input from residents and businesses:

In 7 Hills Business district, all businesses except two said they were not going to make public comment due to the fear of losing business, even those catering to children, though a couple did sign a petition. However, everyone I spoke with opposed a MMJD in this section of town, even if it were to be located 600 ft. from a school. Frank at the Shoe Repair place did come to the meeting when the ordinance was presented hoping to speak, but after waiting two hours, of previous business before this ordinance issue came up, he had to go back to work. This was true of my own pastor and several other people I talked with, as well. We will see if SPD will openly oppose a dispensary in this area, as they did about 5 years ago when this subject came up to the

City Council. if you read the names of those on the petition, you will find 2 business owners who did have the courage to sign their names under the heading "I do not want a Medical Marijuana Dispensary in Nevada City".

Walrath St.

Input from residents:

Each resident I contacted on this short street was appalled to learn that there is Light Industrial zoning adjacent to their street so that a MMJD is possible here. Each one said they did not want any business, and especially not a MMJD business, so close to their short, currently quiet street filled with only residences, citing increased noise, traffic, smell and nuisance factors as well as an unwelcome influx of non-residents a MMJD would bring into their residential street. One "grandma" said she would walk all the way to town from here to post her letter in the box outside Nevada City Hall so the Planning commission would hear her concerns.

New Mohawk Rd., Kidder Court, Bost, Gold Flat Court, Gold Flat Rd.

Input from social service agencies located whose businesses are located in a building on the corner of two of these "allowable" streets: Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Friendship Club and Sierra Adoption Agency, all located in the same building at the corner of Kidder Ct. and Mohawk, as well as A New Day adult peer counseling center located on New Mohawk Rd. very near Gold Flat Court. All these agencies said they were appalled, some were surprised, that the Planning Commission had even thought this was appropriate and that they are even in the "allowable" neighborhood for a MMJD.

Input from a school located on New Mohawk Road very one lot away from Gold Flat Road Charter School seemed unaware that they were located on an "allowable" street for a MMJD and asked me how to access information. I gave them the websites where they could access the Nevada City Zoning Map and the Ordinance itself.

Input from a Mormon church located in the neighborhood of these streets

I talked to a lady who runs the History center there, as well as two other people at that location who all wanted more information of how to object to a MMJD in their neighborhood.

Input from an employee at the funeral home and cemetery located in the neighborhood of these streets

She stated that the owner, Kay, was on the board of the Friendship Club (see above) and that she would not want a MMJD in their neighborhood, and the employee did not want this either in this location or elsewhere inside the Nevada City limits.

Input from residents on Mohawk Rd.

I was only able to find one person home. She had no idea a MMJD was possible in her neighborhood and welcomed my information on how to access the zoning map and the ordinance. She said she would give her own input.

I was unable to obtain access to the owner of the Residential Rehab. house currently being renovated across from the cemetery and located in the neighborhood of these streets. Locating a

MMJD closeby seems obvious and was mentioned by several neighbors, who also mentioned the sensitive and inappropriate proximity to this above named businesses.

Railroad Avenue, Woods Court, Gold Flat, Prospect St., Niles and Nimrod

Input from senior residents of the Northern Queen

13 residents of the senior apartments living here signed a petition under the heading "No Marijuana Medicinal Shop (dispensary) in back of N. Queen or in Nevada City anywhere". Many complained that they want to move if this is a possibility, and some are already looking, but finding affordable housing in Nevada City impossible to find. They all complained about the odor every time they open their windows as well as nuisance and lack of security from trimmigrant residents just above their location who walk around the perimeter, "even on our sidewalks in front of our front doors all hours of the night". One resident, however, said she would be glad to walk across the street to get her supply of marijuana.

input from other residents of Railroad Avenue and Woods Court

I have talked to all but one resident of Woods Court a residents of Railroad Avenue as well. Several residents came to a meeting, some spoke, and have been good about sharing news with the surrounding neighbors on Railroad Avenue, as well. Not one wants a MMJD in their neighborhood or in Nevada City. Further, in the last year they say they have noticed a big increase in "vagrants" roaming their streets and there is no relief even when they all the police. They say they observe a lot of them are on their way between the gas station, Striker house, and Pioneer Park neighborhoods.

Input from residents of Gold Flat, Prospect St. and Niles and Nimrod

Residents on these streets have similar comments regarding "vagrants" and their habits listed above of frequenting the gas station, Striker house, and Pioneer House. I did not go to Gail Damskey's house but three of her neighbors said our town was too small, two signed a petition, one ame to a meeting but did not raise his hand at the Forum when asked "Who is against any MMJD in Nevada City" in order to protect his business. He did, however, do some research on line re: affects in other towns that have MMJDs in neighborhoods. He said none of the articles was positive and most actually stated that they would not have let it happen if they had see ahead of time many of the unintended consequences they were suffering.

Long Street and Turpentine Streets

Input from residents

At least 3 of these residents have spoken at meetings and will submit written input as well. Every resident I was able to contact on these streets, and that my contacts also contacted on their own, expressed that they do not want a MMJD in their neighborhood. Not one of the residents I talked to on either of these streets knew that parts of their streets are adjacent to "allowable" Light Industrial zoning before I talked with them. Many of them do not use a computer and were unable to access the information I gave them for the websites. When I showed them a hard copy of the ordinance, and told them the parameters on the map which included them (I never was able to get a hard copy of it), all expressed that they are already experiencing a lot of homeless people, trimmigants from the Northern Queen, clients of Striker House either living in the gullies around their property and/or walking in their neighborhoods constantly. They have had an increase in thefts, as well in the last year, which they attribute to the people "invading" the

neighborhood who are not residents of it. They also expressed that Nevada City Police were slow to respond to their requests for help and even when they did, it was not effective.

I know you have received petitions signed by Nevada City residents on all the above named streets. Please count each one in your tally. I stopped circulating petitions when I found out that these private citizens would have their names and addresses listed on the web on the website Amy set up. I guess it is a good thing not many people know how to access it because only those who attended a meeting and signed up to receive ongoing messages know this website exists. It was mentioned at the Forum, but how to access it was not.

You will note that in all the hours and all the days I talked to Nevada City residents in neighborhoods outside downtown, I found only one person on all the streets listed above who wants a Medical Marijuana Dispensary inside Nevada City limits. Over and over I did hear people say they thought a dispensary was inevitable in our area somewhere, but they think that other towns, some even nearby, would be acceptable. That subject is something else not under discussion here, but is germane to the point that inside Nevada City limits is not the only possible location for a dispensary in our area.

Thank you for letting the public give input to the Nevada City Planning Commission regarding the proposed Medical Cannabis Dispensary in Nevada City. Everyone has an opinion, so I hope will give special attention to the comments by Nevada City residents, businesses, and workers inside out city limits. We are your constituents, and we are the ones who have a vested interest, and will be the most impacted by your decisions 24/7.

Thank you,
Susan Reynolds