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To: duanestrawser@gmail.com; evansphelps@gmail.com; davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com; info@broadstreetinn.com; Amy Wolfson <Amy.Wolfson@nevadacityca.gov>

Subject: This Thursday's meeting around the pot ordinance

Dear Nevada City Council and City Planner Members,

I'm unable to attend the meeting this Thursday: these meetings are in the middle of a work day and I'm not able to attend at this time. However, I would like to express my opinion as to the placement of Nevada City marijuana dispensaries. My school is devoted to assisting 17-25 year olds in finishing their high school diplomas while receiving free vocational training and leadership development. These local young men and women did not finish high school with their peers, not because they weren't "smart enough", but because they had many complex issues occurring in their lives. That list of issues includes the following:

- Drug (to include marijuana) and alcohol abuse
- domestic violence
- poverty
- multi and inter-generational joblessness
- homelessness
- mental illness
- criminal activity: both felonies and misdemeanors, mostly related to drug use and the insatiable need for money
- and more

When I interview each incoming, prospective student, (now totaling 130 students), we talk for an hour. I ask them directly the following questions: "For you, what were some of the things that happened to you that kept you from finishing high school on time?" and subsequently, "If you could do it all over again, what might you do differently?"

35% of them say: "I would not start smoking pot." (When I asked "why?" they typically say: "It's where it all started. I went down from there.")

Of that 35%, nearly **ALL** of them have been felons or are facing felonious charges.

These students are sick of the life of "in and out" of jail and struggle to stay away from marijuana. Besides their own addictions to it and other drug use, it seems to be the source of so many other negative effects of their very young lives. Whether they feel like they are "addicted" or not, whether they feel like it is "medicine" or "harmful" a large number of them **KNOW** that it was a large contribution for what took them off track in their academics and personal lives when they were younger.

Please don't allow these "dispensaries" to be located near schools, transitional housing or drug intervention locations. I would like to request that the amount of feet in distance from any of these types of venues be at least 1000 ft. It is challenging enough for these young men and women to stay clean and away from this lifestyle that they are trying to lay aside.

Thank you for your considerations. I appreciate all that you have before you.

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Anita Bagwell

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