

SIERRA⁺

an Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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Rev. Dr. Mike Griffin
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To: Nevada City Planning Commission

My name is Mike Griffin and I am the pastor of Sierra Presbyterian Church which is located at 175 Ridge Rd., here in Nevada City. As the largest protestant church with a Nevada City address I want to express my concern as a representative of our 325 member church. While others will speak of their concern about having a dispensary in general, I want to focus my comments on the deep concern for the potential location that would be just down the street from us at 440 Lower Grass Valley Rd. in Nevada City that is in the process of being purchased by a Sacramento-based dispensary.

In talking with members of the six businesses between the church and that location as well as representatives from the school district offices whose offices have been nearby, there is united concern about the negative impact that a dispensary would bring to our neighborhood, businesses and schools. While I am aware that this location would fit the "Lite Industrial" zoning needed for such a dispensary, I want to remind you that our church houses Sonshine Preschool with 30 children currently enrolled as well as a youth building that are just beyond the 600 ft. distance requirements. In addition, Little Friends Childcare is just on the other side of the highway and Earl Jamison continuation High School is slated to move in just on the other side of Robinson's Enterprises. The potential location is also right in between two homeless shelters (Utah's Place/Hospitality House and the new one that Divine Spark has established on Gold Flat Rd.) While I know that a dispensary would come with increased security, you should also be aware that the church as well as a few of the businesses have had recent break-ins and we are concerned that a dispensary in that location may bring increased crime to the surrounding neighborhood.

In summary, the presence of schools and children, and a church that is celebrating its 50th anniversary this next year, as well as businesses that have contributed to our community for a long time lead me to believe that this possible location should not be considered should the planning commission move forward with approving a dispensary in general. It is with best interests of the physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual well-being of our community that I share my comments.

Sincerely,


Pastor Mike Griffin

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