

Nadia Khan

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 1:25 PM
To: Nadia Khan
Subject: Fw: Special Permit

From: jane frantz <janefrantz5@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 2, 2020 10:55 AM
To: City Council <citycouncil@newtonma.gov>
Subject: Special Permit

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Dear Councilors,

I urge you at long last to approve the special permit for the Ascend RMD. I do so for several reasons:

1. The city voted to approve 8 RMD's. I was the chair of the ballot committee to limit the number of stores to four, as that appeared to be a reasonable number and a compromise. We lost that vote and I accept that. It's time to move on and Respect the Vote.
2. I have attended three Land Use meetings related to the Ascend permit and it's clear the neighbors (one in particular) have influence beyond what is appropriate in a democratic society where the rule of law is supposed to take precedence.
3. When the council puts up so many roadblocks to the opening of a store, the clear message to the community is that there is something terribly wrong with what is being sold, even for those who need the product for medical reasons. I am in that category. After a year of severe chronic pain due to meds that will prevent a recurrence of breast cancer, I finally got up the courage to walk into Garden Remedies just last week. I felt uncomfortable, didn't want anyone seeing me walk in or out, and waited until it was dark. This should not be okay. The product I purchased works wonders and I am now close to pain-free.
4. You have no idea why anyone is purchasing cannabis. Most people in my cancer support group use it for pain. Other friends in my age group (senior citizens) use it to control neuropathy and arthritis. I have friends that travel to other communities to purchase the product that is most effective in controlling pain due to the continued stigma in Newton. All they want is to be able to buy regulated cannabis rather than unregulated street cannabis.

When the city council refuses to approve these special permits, the stigma continues. The Cannabis Control Commission and the local conditions placed on RMD's ensure these stores are safe. Please vote to move this item to the full board on Tuesday evening at the fifth meeting on this item.

Sincerely,
Jane Frantz
12 Glastonbury Oval.
Newton