

Linda M. Finucane

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 8:30 AM
To: aldermen
Cc: Linda M. Finucane
Subject: FW: Medical marijuana dispensary

From: Carol Cohen [<mailto:carolrcohen@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2014 8:21 AM
To: David A. Olson
Subject: Medical marijuana dispensary

Mr. Olson--

Please distribute the following letter to the aldermen at the June 17 hearing of the Land Use Committee. I can't attend the meeting myself, so this at least places my opinions and comments in front of the eyes of the aldermen on that committee.

Here is what I wrote to Dr. Karen Munkacy and her lawyer, and the Mass. Dept. of Public Health's Medical Use of Marijuana Program, with copies to the 3 aldermen who are concerned with my Ward 2 house neighborhood:

Dr. Munkacy--

I went to the first neighborhood meeting about your starting a medical marijuana dispensary in my neighborhood, and I think you should find another location for it.

I have no objection to the medical use of marijuana, but I do object to:

1. The location, only 2 doors down from my back yard at 50 Court St. I am concerned about possible robberies as your customers leave the building, especially after dark in the winter. Your security provisions strike me as casual: cameras outside the building and in front, which could provide a record of a robbery after the fact, but not stop that robbery in time. I'm worried that opportunistic robbers might be carrying guns. I am anxious that one of these criminals could easily escape the police by cutting through the back yards.

The entire block behind 697 Washington St. is residential. Your security set-up might include bright lights behind the building on all night; or lights that suddenly come on from motion detectors. The peaceful residential block will lose its peacefulness and perhaps its safety.

2. Your incomplete arrangements as to your source of supply: the Essex location for growing your marijuana is now gone, since you, with a sensitivity to local feelings in Essex, withdrew your application to use that acreage. So at present you have no designated place to grow, and therefore no assurance of supply and no quality control over the substance. If you can withdraw from using the Essex land because of local opposition there, you should also withdraw from using Newtonville for the dispensary.

I think you should withdraw your application to open your marijuana dispensary for now, until these (and other) problems are solved.

*Carol Cohen
owner, 50 Court St., Newton*