

Linda M. Finucane

From: Jill Geiger <bjill@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 9:53 AM
To: Linda M. Finucane
Subject: Garden Remedies Special Permit application

RECEIVED
Newton City Clerk
2014 OCT -7 PM 5:10
David A. Olson, Clerk
Newton, MA 02459

To the members of the Land Use Committee: Aldermen Laredo, Schwartz, Lennon, Albright, Cole, Halsey, Hossley and Lipof,

As a longtime resident of Newtonville, I'm writing to express my opposition to the proposed location of Garden Remedies at 697 Washington Street in Newtonville. The brief summary of the special permit process states that the Land Use Committee considers "whether the proposed project will be a good neighbor, fit in with its setting, and enhance the community's quality of life." A medical marijuana dispensary in this location does not meet any of those criteria for reasons outlined below.

-Proximity to village center

This building is located close to Newtonville, a busy, pedestrian-friendly village. Cabot's Ice Cream is just a few doors down from 697 Washington and is a restaurant popular with families and children. Because of the proximity of the proposed location of Garden Remedies to a village center, restaurants, stores and schools, this business isn't suitable for this setting.

-Parking

A dispensary should have sufficient parking for staff and customers. Of the parking spots along Washington in that area that aren't used by commuters, most are located on the other side of that busy street. Because of the speed of traffic and the limited visibility in this particular section of Washington, walking across the street is challenging under the best of circumstances. Customers of this business are people in pain, some of whom are likely to have mobility issues. Customers entering and exiting this business will need to cross that street throughout the day and evening during all kinds of weather. This presents a safety issue, not only for the pedestrians but also for drivers.

-Safety and security

All day long and into the evening, patients will be walking into the dispensary with cash and walking out with marijuana. Garden Remedies' security system is limited to monitoring the interior and perimeter of the building with cameras. The security system cannot monitor the sidewalk because it's a public area. When asked about the safety of patients leaving the dispensary, Garden Remedies' attorney said that employees could not escort patients to their cars or to public transportation as a security measure. If this is an issue of security for employees, it's certainly a security issue for the neighborhood.

For these reasons, I request that you not approve the special permit application for this business.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill Geiger
72 Madison Ave.
Newtonville, MA 02460