

Linda M. Finucane

From: David A. Olson
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2014 2:17 PM
To: aldermen
Cc: Linda M. Finucane
Subject: FW: feedback on marijuana dispensary

From: Erica Streit-Kaplan [<mailto:ericastreitkaplan@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2014 2:10 PM
To: David A. Olson
Subject: feedback on marijuana dispensary

Dear Mr. Olson,

I wanted to give feedback about the medical marijuana site in Newtonville for the aldermen.

I know there is a lot of concern expressed, but I am one of many Newton residents supporting this facility. I don't know the owners and have no stake in the business, but from what I've read it seems like a sensible business strategy and that appropriate safety precautions are being taken.

As a parent, I intend to explain the difference between illicit use and medical purposes; just because this is in our community there is no reason to think that it would increase illegal marijuana use. Moreover, with the rash of overdose deaths from prescription drugs in Massachusetts, we parents know that legal does not mean safe. Parents and the larger Newton community must have a more nuanced approach than the "just say no" messages of the '80s.

I plan to attend the meeting next week, and just wanted to let you know that many residents are comfortable and welcoming of medical marijuana at this location.

Sincerely,
Erica Streit-Kaplan
29 Alden Place, W Newton