



FRANK BAKER
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR
DISTRICT 3

April 22, 2014

Ms. Karen van Unen
Executive Director
Medical use of Marijuana program
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Ms. Van Unen,

I am writing to you not as an opponent of medical marijuana, but rather in opposition to the selection process used by the Department of Public Health (DPH) in choosing the application of Green Heart Holistic Health & Pharmaceuticals, Inc. for a state license to operate a Registered Marijuana Dispensary (RMD) at 70 Southamptton Street in Boston, Massachusetts.

During the application process, DPH stated that there would need to be significant community input and support for any RMD located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As the Boston City Councilor representing District 3, encompassing 70 Southamptton Street, I would like to go on record as saying that I was *never* contacted by Green Heart Holistic Health & Pharmaceuticals, Inc. concerning their proposal to open a dispensary on Southamptton Street, prior to their application deadline. Furthermore, thus far, there has been little to no community support for a dispensary at this particular location, and personally I believe the placement of such a dispensary in an area already plagued with social ills, including three methadone clinics, the Suffolk County Jail & House of Corrections, numerous homeless shelters, the City of Boston's only public hospital emergency room, and a significant, ongoing problem with illegal drugs and prostitution would make an already ghastly problem area worse.

This process was promised to be transparent and non-political, but after speaking with my colleagues on both the state and municipal level it has come to my attention that other locations had tremendous public and community support and strong security plans, but were completely overlooked.

This particular application of Green Heart Holistic Health & Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has been plagued with irregularities and red flags. The proponent's application submitted to your office in late November of 2013 contains a number of factual inaccuracies. The proponent's phase two application states that a subway stop is half a block from the proposed dispensary when in fact the proposed site is far removed from the nearest MBTA subway stops. Additionally, the applicant does not have support for this location from Mayor Walsh, Congressman Lynch or I. Furthermore, there are serious security concerns at this location, including a lack of armed security and the use of an off-site harvesting center, among *many* other things.

After learning more about the two sites selected in Boston, and no other locations in Suffolk County, it appears to me this was a political and biases process that should be rescinded immediately. I ask that the

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DPH revise their "scoring" of the application of Green Heart Holistic Health & Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and annul the tentative award of a provisional license to operate at this location.

Thank you for your time, attention and careful consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Frank Baker
Boston City Councilor, District 3

cc: Congressman Stephen Lynch
Mayor Martin J. Walsh
City Council President William Linehan
Tito Jackson, Boston City Council District 7
George Stergios, President, Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association