



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

State House Room 312-D Boston, MA 02133

SENATOR SONIA CHANG-DÍAZ
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May 14, 2014

Ms. Karen van Unen
Executive Director
Medical Use of Marijuana Program
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, or to the siting of medical marijuana dispensaries, but rather in opposition to the application of Green Heart Holistic Health & Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Green Heart) for a state license to operate a Registered Marijuana Dispensary (RMD) at 70 Southampton Street in Boston.

It has been brought to my attention by constituents that there are a number of inaccuracies and unsubstantiated claims in Green Heart's application. This pattern draws into question the professionalism of the company and their commitment to the highest standards of rigor, transparency, and trustworthiness – qualities I believe the Commonwealth should expect from a medical dispensary. As you are no doubt aware by now, Green Heart significantly exaggerated their support among elected officials. City Councilor Tito Jackson was falsely characterized as pledging future support for Green Heart's operation, though he has attested he made no such commitment to Green Heart. Their application also included the claim that a subway stop is half a block from the proposed dispensary, when in fact it is over half a mile away.

Finally, Green Heart's application stated that they had support from community groups, but they were unwilling to identify specific entities in their application. The Worcester Square Area Neighborhood Association (WSANA), which represents the community adjacent to 70 Southampton Street, was approached by Green Heart only after the company had submitted their application for consideration.

My concern is that, taken together, these inaccuracies and unsubstantiated claims form a pattern of truth-stretching that goes beyond the level of minor mistakes and approaches a disregard for the integrity of the process set out by DPH. It raises significant concern over the fitness of Green Heart to run an RMD in the Second Suffolk District, or anywhere in the Commonwealth for that matter. Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this letter. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Saludos,

Sonia Chang-Díaz
State Senator
Second Suffolk District