

February 21, 2017

Date: 02/21/2017
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 14-0366-54
Item No. 3
Deputy: Comm. from Public

The Honorable Members of the Planning Land Use Management Committee
Room 350
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles CA 90012

Re: Item #3 February 21, 2017 – Consideration of Land Use for Cannabis Businesses – Rejection of Caps

Dear Honorable Members of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee:

We are writing today to ask that the Committee reject numerical caps on cannabis businesses and instead use the method which has worked well for the City for over half a decade: allowing a natural cap to arise based on adherence to sensitive use rules.


Imposing artificial caps puts the City in a position which invites litigation. It does not allow the City the flexibility it needs to regulate efficiently. It creates an artificial marketplace, not based on patient or consumer needs but rather a numerical calculation that is inflexible. It invites a scenario where businesses are concentrated rather than spread evenly throughout the City.

Moreover, by limiting businesses based on an artificial cap, you discourage job creation, limit tax revenue and create an environment which invites the black market to flourish, as an artificial cap most likely will not be extensive enough to provide for both medical and recreational use.

Americans for Safe Access has helped hundreds of municipalities regulate and it has been our experience that using sensitive use prohibitions and restrictions on the use of residential zoning for cannabis businesses is the most flexible and organic method of ensuring enough businesses to serve the marketplace while still preserving the health and safety of all citizens.

It should be noted that with the passage of Proposition M, the City will be able to begin issuing licenses. This, in tandem with the new enforcement rules in Proposition M will enable the City to quickly identify and shut down bad actors, there is no way an artificial cap is needed or desirable once the City re-acquires the right to regulate. It is a needless level of complexity and we respectfully ask that the PLUM Committee reject any system based on artificial caps.

Sincerely,


Sarah Armstrong JD
Director of Industry Affairs
Americans for Safe Access

Headquarters

1300 Clay Street, Suite 600, Oakland CA 94612
PHONE: 510.251.1856

National Office

1806 Vemon St. NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20009
PHONE: 202.857.4272 FAX: 202.857.4273

General Information

WEB: www.AmericansForSafeAccess.org
TOLL FREE: 1.888.939.4367