



September 22, 2017

Honorable Herb J. Wesson, Jr.
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street, Room 430
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Wesson,

Thank you to your committee and to Council for working on regulations for the Commercial Cannabis Industry. I am writing because I believe that many of our locations in the Fashion District will be attractive to new marijuana dispensaries and grow-houses. It is critical that there is not an over-proliferation and over-concentration of cannabis outlets in one neighborhood, overburdening it with this new type of business. We fully support the 800-ft. radius rule between each retail dispensary, and the other local land use controls for sensitive areas like schools, parks and rehab centers.

I also encourage the Council to consider imposing some requirements for these new businesses to activate their storefronts, albeit, without visibly displaying the merchandise. Traditionally, the spaces are usually "dark" with curtains and/or other items blocking the ability to see into the space. This always changes the pedestrian flow and activation of the street and can hurt the surrounding retail and neighborhood.

Additionally, I urge the Council to consider robust funding for strong enforcement mechanisms to prevent oversaturation and illegal operations. Just last week, LAPD arrested seven (7) people in the Fashion District at one of its cannabis retail outlets. Along with cannabis and cash, they found machine guns.

Last, I respectfully request that Business Improvement Districts are included in the early notification process. Currently BIDs are notified by the Planning Department's bi-weekly case filing early notification system to allow the tracking of applications from the initial filing through a public hearing process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rena Masten Leddy".

Rena Masten Leddy
Executive Director

cc: Members of the Los Angeles City Council