

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN SUNLAND TUJUNGA
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042 • www.stnc.org • 818-951-7411

October 11, 2017

Planning Director Vince Bertoni
Los Angeles Department of City Planning
200 Spring St., 7th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Director Bertoni,

At the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council General Board meeting held on October 11, 2017, the Board voted 10 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstain to support the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council in **OPPOSITION** to the Draft Cannabis Zoning Regulations, CPC-2017-2260-CA as it relates to Cannabis Cultivation.

We strongly support the stand taken by Councilman Paul Krekorian:

"I oppose any and all activity in A-zones.

a) If cannabis activity is to be allowed in A-zones, it should only be allowed on property that has an existing agricultural use with a Certificate of Occupancy or permits for agricultural activity prior to Jan. 1, 2017.

b) Absolutely no cannabis activity should be allowed in A-zones that are in very high fire hazard severity zones."

Further, the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council requests that the Draft Cannabis Zoning Regulations be modified to include reference to the Foothill Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan and its Design Guidelines (Ordinance No. 170,694, 173,455). The current Draft Cannabis Zoning Regulations, CPC-2017-2260-CA do not currently include any reference to our Specific Plan, which covers the entire Commercial Corridor for Sunland-Tujunga, including Foothill Blvd., Commerce Avenue and immediately surrounding streets.

This late addition to the proposed zoning regulations regarding Cannabis Cultivation was made public only a few short days prior to the hearing held before the City Planning Commission on September 14, 2017 with no public outreach nor public comment period of the usual length of at least 15-30 days as is normally the case prior to a public hearing. Stakeholders were caught off guard and scrambled to notify the community of this situation but there was barely enough time to respond, even by immediately working on it over the weekend to meet the deadline of Monday (two days before the Hearing).

Our Neighborhood Council boundaries appear to also have a majority of A1 and A2 zoned properties. Specifically, surrounding Riverwood Ranch, Alpine Village, McGroarty Street, McGroarty Terrace, Haines Canyon, Blanchard Canyon, Renaissance and Big Tujunga Canyon. These are in residential neighborhoods that are the last areas where Equine use is common, which is an asset to the lifestyle balance in our City.

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Item No.: 1
Deputy: Public

Another concern is that the Council President and Planning Commission President state that cannabis farming is no more problematic than "growing tomatoes and corn". Has there been any research to substantiate this? Do the farms in Northern California and other States which have recently approved recreational marijuana use and cultivation have similar experiences? When driving through agricultural areas of California there are open, unfenced farms with fruits and vegetables that don't seem to require the security that cannabis farms in our City will probably need. Their existence will most likely also have impacts on surrounding uses and neighborhoods and impose additional burdens on the Police Department to ensure public safety.

Further, the Draft Ordinance states that there is no Specific Plan applicable to these areas, but this is incorrect. Actually, a great deal of the A1 and A2 land in CD7 is under the San Gabriel/Verdugo Mountains Scenic Corridor Specific Plan. More importantly, there are no *buffer* requirements for these farms. For example, schools on McGroarty Street have A1 lots surrounding or adjacent to them, and there are numerous other similarly sensitive sites. Even with cannabis being grown in a greenhouse there could be any number of threats to these students and surrounding neighborhoods.

La Tuna Canyon and other areas directly adjacent to many neighborhoods of Sunland-Tujunga just experienced the largest brush fire in Los Angeles history. Again, the majority of the A1, A2 lots in CD7 are in *extreme high wind and high fire* areas. Those areas burned in the recent fire will be subject to mudslides, landslides and flooding soon and these conditions will exist for a number of years until the natural flora returns.

Sincerely,



Krystee Clark, President
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

cc. Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, CD7
Councilman Paul Krekorian, CD2
Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Sun Valley Area NC
Foothill Trails District NC
Sylmar NC
LAFD Station 77
LAPD Foothill Station
Kevin James, President Board of Public Works
Council President Herb Wesson
Los Angeles City Council



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Dear City Officials,

Dec. 1, 2017

We would like to introduce ourselves to you, we are LOKi Lotion. A small woman owned and operated topical cannabis company. We have been doing Outreach and Cannabis Education for your cities since 2015. We are currently in 25 legal dispensaries and growing. We are social activists, educators and givers of free pain salve to our socio-economic disadvantaged of Los Angeles and surrounding cities. We started as an outreach to the homeless in DTLA to give "HOPE" to ourselves and others.

After a year of outreach the need for our salve from "the workers" started happening and our company grew organically through demand. The general Los Angeles Community is of the mindset that our inner city communities welcome Cannabis. This is not the case, many view Cannabis as scary and fear incarnation. Only 10% of the California population knows what THC or CBD is. Cannabis topical's will be the fastest growing part of the Cannabis Industry in the next five years. It is the least threatening way to introduce the compounds and the healing power to the people. We must break stigma by educating through a product that heals with no psycho-activity.

Legalization will bring another issue to the forefront. The poor, the sick, the dying will not be able to afford their medicine. As health insurance dwindles and the Opiate crises continues more people will be seeking alternative medicine.

We believe we have a solution for many issues surrounding Legal Cannabis:

1 A Cannabis Resource Center


- a it would field medical calls by an RN for THC OVER-USE (hospitals are discharging people that come in with Cannabis in their systems as a Marijuana OVERDOSE, we need to change this terminology)
- b Educational Resources (cannabis classes, job fairs, community outreach, etc)
- c Delivery services for the elderly and sick
- d Low to no cost medicine (donations made through social responsibility and main stream businesses that want to support the cannabis community and community outreach)

We created our pain salve for THE PEOPLE. We believe that no person should be living in pain and we feel everyone should have safe affordable access to natural pain relief. We have high recommendations and have worked with several Los Angeles companies to educate our communities like LA Weekly, Children's Hospital, LA Food Festivals, Union Rescue and countless homeless outreach programs.

We want to be of service to our city and to offer viable solutions to Legal Cannabis. Let us bridge the gap between fear and understanding. Help us continue to serve our people and utilize what we have already established in our communities by providing a pathway for the Cannabis Social Equity Program. We would forfeit our small business and donate our knowledge to make a Los Angeles Salve and help bring the resources together to make this center a reality.

Sincerely,

Loki Lotion
A Compassion Brand


Beth Ostermann
Owner/Founder
310/266-8604


Christina Marsh
Founder
213/309-9778

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