



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

October 14, 2022

Los Angeles City Attorney
Hon. Mike Feuer
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Cc: Michelle Garakian
Interim Executive Director
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Dear Hon. Mike Feuer,

The Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC), representing the most broad-based voice of the Pacific Palisades community since 1973, voted on October 13, 2022, at our regularly scheduled board meeting, which is open to the public, to support Brentwood Community Council (BCC) in their call for review of the recent dispensary that has been permitted to operate in their community, without prior community notice. The location of the business is perilously close to a nearby LAUSD Middle School while also being at the heart of a commercial center that attracts kids and families. The location has already experienced two break-ins, which have prompted the attention of LAPD and raised due alarm in the Brentwood community as well as the outlying areas that could be adversely impacted, including Pacific Palisades.

The following is the entirety of the motion passed at PPCC:

Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) shares the serious concerns expressed by Brentwood Community Council (BCC) in its Open Letter approved on October 12, 2022 pertaining to the cannabis retail dispensary named “Cookies” located at 13030 San Vicente Blvd., as well as the licensing process for cannabis retailers under current Los Angeles Municipal Code (“Code”) provisions.

PPCC is particularly concerned that:

- *BCC did not receive any outreach or advance notice that a permit was being requested for this establishment before a permit was issued; there appear to be no available consequences or recourse for this significant omission.*
- *BCC and the Brentwood community were given no opportunity to provide input as to community concerns or to propose reasonable conditions on operations prior to licensing, in light of the establishment’s proximity to Paul Revere Charter Middle School (“Revere”);*
- *Although it is technically outside of the restricted radius from Revere (a “sensitive use” under applicable Code provisions), “Cookies” is located very near Revere and adjacent to the family-oriented Brentwood Country Mart – a centralized school bus pick-up and drop-off location for students from numerous local schools, including from Brentwood and Pacific Palisades, and where youth in grades 6-8 from Revere and young students from other local schools often congregate;*
- *At least two break-ins have occurred at “Cookies” within a month of operations (prior to and after opening of the establishment);*
- *Unlike numerous other cities in California (including San Francisco, San Diego, Sacramento, Pasadena, Long Beach and Santa Monica), Los Angeles does not require issuance of a conditional use permit in order for cannabis retailers to operate; indeed, current Code provisions prevent Planning Dept. review in these cases, i.e., there is no discretionary review, public hearing before a zoning administrator or right of appeal as is otherwise required with most other businesses in Los Angeles, which are in turn in regulated under applicable conditional use/conditional use “beverage” permit requirements under the Code.*

PPCC accordingly fully supports the eight “Action Items” (bullet points following the Open Letter) proposed by BCC for Code amendments and other actions to be taken with respect to cannabis retailer licensing and operations in Los Angeles. PPCC specifically supports an amendment that would require cannabis retailers to obtain a conditional use permit, similar to conditional use “beverage” permits required for retail liquor stores (with appropriate notice and public hearing, NOT an over-the-counter/streamlined or “by right” process) under the Code.

PPCC stresses that its position pertains only to concerns related to the licensing process, the lack of notice, the location near a school and the inability of the community to weigh in meaningfully (or at all) on operations and location of cannabis retailers. PPCC takes no position on the use of cannabis under applicable California law.

We urge you to review the licensing process for cannabis retailers under current Los Angeles Municipal Code, and insert a review process similar to that which is required for alcohol sales, in order to allow communities to determine where and when cannabis retailers are appropriate, and to keep communities safe from the kind of harm that may arise from blanket permitting of business licenses without consideration of specific circumstances that may need to be addressed, community by community.

Sincerely,

Maryam Zar, J.D.
PPCC Chair

CC:

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