



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

November 10, 2023

Chair Donovan Anderson
Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Board
Reeves Center
2000 14th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009
abca.legal@dc.gov

RE: 1636 Connecticut Avenue NW – “Healing LLC” – ABCA-117378 – Application to Add a Safe Use Treatment Facility Endorsement to the Establishment’s Medical Cannabis Retailer License

Dear Chair Anderson,

At its regular meeting on November 8, 2023, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 8 of 8 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-1):

WHEREAS, the National Holistic Healing Center (“applicant”) has applied to add a safe use treatment facility endorsement to the establishment’s Medical Cannabis Retailer license at 1636 Connecticut Avenue NW, located within single member district 2B02,

WHEREAS, the National Holistic Healing Center has operated at this location and another location nearby for over ten years without noted incidents or disturbances to the neighborhood,

WHEREAS, the applicant seeks to include a “summer garden” and “safe use treatment facility” at the premises for patients to consume products purchased from the establishment, including smoking cannabis products,

WHEREAS, at a hearing about proposed cannabis regulations by the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Board on June 7, 2023, concerns were raised about odors from cannabis smoking having annoying, adverse, and detrimental effects on nearby residents and businesses,

WHEREAS, the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) has not yet established guidance for resolving issues arising from negative impacts on the neighbors of summer gardens, or whether smoking inside the premises is permitted as part of a “safe use treatment facility” and how to manage the smoke,

WHEREAS, many ANC commissioners and other members of the public who attended the ABC Board hearing urged the board to delay implementation of summer gardens until sufficient study and guidelines for resolving issues were developed,

WHEREAS, two days prior to the ABC Board hearing, on June 5, 2023, DC Superior Court Judge Ebony Scott ruled in favor of a resident in a multi-family dwelling that a neighbor who is legally permitted to purchase and consume cannabis was barred from smoking cannabis in the residence because of the odor adversely affecting the plaintiff,

WHEREAS, many ANC commissioners and other members of the public who attended the ABC Board hearing urged the board to delay implementation of summer gardens as the DC Superior Court decision conflicts with DC's medical cannabis regulations and raises further concerns about the impacts on neighboring residents and businesses, and

WHEREAS, nearby residents on Hillyer Place NW have raised concerns about odors, air quality, and noise from people on the summer garden.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the National Holistic Healing Center's application subject to restrictions on the use of the summer garden and subject to any exhaust from the safe treatment facility being scrubbed of offending odors, as agreed to in a settlement agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B protests the National Holistic Healing Center's application based on the adverse impact on peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood, to be withdrawn upon the ABC Board's acceptance and approval of a settlement agreement.

Commissioners Jeffrey Rueckgauer (2B02@anc.dc.gov) and Meg Roggensack (2B01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meg Roggensack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "R".

Meg Roggensack
Chair