LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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April 8, 2021

TO: Office of the City Clerk
Council and Public Services Division
Room 395, City Hall, Mail Stop No. 160

RE: APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC CONVENIENCE OR NECESSITY RELATED TO A
CANNABIS BUSINESS; COUNCIL FILE NO. 21-0420-S26 – CD 14

Greetings,

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) was recently notified regarding the pending application for a commercial cannabis license at 1058 S. Main St. Please be advised that the LAPD-Central Area is adamantly opposed to the granting of a license at this location.

Since 2016, LAPD-Central Area has been conducting enforcement of illegal cannabis dispensaries in the surrounding area. The most recent enforcement took place in January 2021, less than .3 miles away from the location specified above. Central Area has invested numerous hours and resources to address the issue of illegal cannabis sales and cultivation. With each operation, we have dedicated Narcotic Detectives and uniformed personnel, with an average of 15 officers committed to each investigation. Many of our investigations have resulted in the seizures of illegal firearms, Schedule-1 narcotics, and unlicensed cannabis products. This vicinity of Central Area is highly sought-after by the cannabis industry due to the retail and commercial businesses that attract thousands of visitors on a daily basis.

Since the onset of cannabis sales, Central Area has seen significant increases in robberies and assaults with firearms; the most recent assault resulted in a homicide in March 2021. There are currently four additional applicants for commercial cannabis licenses, within four blocks of 1058 S. Main St. A detailed analysis of the area surrounding this proposed commercial cannabis retail location revealed a total of 1650 calls for service over the preceding 12-month period. Many of these calls were violent in nature and consisted of robberies and assaults. This vicinity is heavily trafficked, densely populated, and as mentioned above, generates a significantly large number of calls for service related to cannabis sales.

An additional basis for our opposition to this potential licensing is the over-saturation of existing cannabis locations within the Central City Community Plan Area (CPA). A review indicated that only four cannabis business premises are allowed within this CPA. Currently, there are seven existing licensed retail cannabis locations, indicating that this CPA is beyond its concentration limit.

The closest licensed retail cannabis business to the proposed location is located at 1149 S. Los Angeles St., which is a merely few blocks south of the additional proposed location. If the license at 1058 S. Main St. is granted, this will place an undue hardship on the community and should be of significant consideration in justifying a denial of the license. Should this license be issued despite our objections, it would be reasonable to expect the licensee to take a proactive role in protecting the welfare of its patrons and the public.

The LAPD has invested considerable time and resources to bring about the closure of illegal cannabis businesses throughout the City and the removal of these locations has significantly enhanced the quality of life in the surrounding communities. We believe the approval of this additional cannabis location would invalidate our efforts to control crimes associated with the proliferation of the cannabis industry, which is already oversaturated in the vicinity. Please see the Area Crime Analysis attachment, which depicts crimes and calls for service that were generated in the vicinity of this location.

Should you have any questions, please contact Detective Jorge Trejo, OIC, Central Area NED, at (213) 486-6667.

Very truly yours,

MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

T. SCOTT HARRELSON, Captain
Commanding Officer
Central Area

Attachment

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