



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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October 12, 2023

Councilmember Brooke Pinto
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 106
Washington, DC 20004
bpinto@dccouncil.gov

Mr. Joe Sternlieb
CEO and President
Georgetown Business Improvement District
1000 Potomac Street NW, Suite 122
Washington, DC 20007
jsternlieb@georgetowndc.com

RE: Capping the Number of Cannabis Retail Stores in Georgetown and Ensuring Legal Operations

Dear Councilmember Pinto and Mr. Sternlieb,

On October 2, 2023 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by eight commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

ANC 2E and many of its constituents have noted a significant increase in the number of new businesses opening in our community centered around cannabis – recreational cannabis as a gift or medical cannabis.

ANC 2E understands that this noticeable increase is due to city laws regarding recreational cannabis use and sales and evolving regulations regarding the medical cannabis dispensary licensing process. In Washington, DC, it is legal for an adult to possess up to two ounces of cannabis and consume cannabis on private property, however it is illegal to buy or sell it unless for medical reasons (up to 8 ounces every thirty days). Thus, recreational stores offer a “gift” of cannabis with the purchase of another item, such as a t-shirt or a sticker. Meanwhile, medical cannabis dispensaries offer products and adults self-certify that they have a qualifying medical condition. According to

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1 Topher Mathews, District 2 Paul Maysak, District 3
Joe Massaua, District 4 Mimsy Lindner, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Daniel Chao, District 7 John DiPierri, District 8

proposed regulations from the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Board, local ANCs will be involved in reviewing licenses for the medical cannabis dispensaries that are appearing.

Given the expected increase in recreational cannabis use and medical cannabis dispensary businesses, ANC 2E is interested in working with Councilmember Pinto and the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) on how this growing line of business will impact our community. The ANC, for example, commented in June 2023 on the ABC Board's draft emergency and proposed rulemaking resulting from the Medical Cannabis Amendment Act of 2022. The ANC recommended to the ABC Board various changes to the proposed final regulations such as waiting to allow the use of summer gardens by these businesses at this time. The ANC has shared our comments to the ABC Board with your offices.

ANC 2E supports having a diversity of businesses in our community. Therefore, the ANC seeks to explore the methods to establish a cap on the number of allowed licensed retailers in our community. As the ANC determines how to best integrate this evolving business line into our historic community, the ANC also requests a partnership regarding how to ensure closure of the unlicensed cannabis businesses. Finally, the ANC has observed that some of the cannabis businesses appear to be unaware of the community regulations regarding what is in public view, for example rules on advertising and the use of neon. The ANC hopes to collaborate on educating this new and growing business line regarding meeting our established community expectations. The ANC looks forward to collaborating on this important topic.

Commissioner Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission's representative in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gwendolyn Lohse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gwendolyn Lohse
Chair, ANC 2E