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Planning Department <planning@edcgov.us>

## Letter of Support For 22-0793/CCUP20-0001 Cybele Holding Commercial Cannabis Cultivation and Nursery

1 message

Annie Aubrey <chuckswellnesscenter@gmail.com>  
To: aaron.mount@edcgov.us, planning@edcgov.us

Tue, May 10, 2022 at 10:31 PM

Dear Commissioner's,

My name is Annie Aubrey, I am the CEO of a CA licensed Cannabis Retail Storefront in Placerville CA, Chuck's Wellness Center. I write today in full support of issuing an operating CU Permit for Cybele Holdings.

### **I believe licensing businesses reduces crime, here's why:**

\* As a licensed business we have very strict security measures and have done a lot of good in our area. Our business is in the heart of Broadway and was a 10yr vacant building with creek access. I called the police for help on a regular basis prior to having the store open and secure. We do clean-ups, require continuous transient attention and parking management for us and our neighboring areas. We have day/night security and criminal activity has gone down drastically. While illicit grows may be ridden with illegal guns, operators and weapons, the licensed grow can not have any of that.

\* Countless area's have shown crime go down by having a cannabis business nearby, the regulations were written in such a way to demand this of us to create safety in our communities. Security is a massive expense in our industry, very few small businesses go to the extent we do, which is fine but it does lead to my point that our expense at reducing crime, is less time and money for the county.

### **I believe licencing the business is the only way to combat the illicit market, here's why:**

\* Currently there are likely products in our community that have no regulations around what they are mixed with (contaminants & other drugs), how they are created (unsafe measures and equipment) and this is a huge portion of what product gets into the community. Regulated businesses have cleaner products than you can likely imagine. Even a cocoa plant pulls in metals via the roots and when made into a chocolate for cannabis the metals must be removed. The products are clean of chemicals, pesticides and any other drug or agent that is harmful. Being licensed in cannabis we have more regulations, audits & Inspections than any other type of business. We can't stop consumption but we can trust we did our part to keep the community safe with clean products, child proof packaging and a consultation to educate them on dosing.

\* The illicit market is thriving and it will continue to thrive until the regulated market catches up and adds licensing and product to accommodate demand. We have yet to see the reality or the long term benefits of a legal market and how the only way to combat the illicit market is by creating a thriving regulated market.

### **I believe licensed businesses can be trusted and you should give them a shot, here's why:**

\* Each cannabis plant is tracked from seed to sale in the state METRC system. Every single product we have returned or deemed inoperable must be destroyed via the States lengthy regulations and then tracked in the METRC system by reporting the reason for each item. Our inventory, operations & funds are inspected often, at any time and by any of the regulators. Audits are a part of the norm. This is not the case in most businesses by a long shot. I can not see somebody growing legally and doing illicit sales, as you will be held accountable for the plants you plant.

\* Opportunities for locals are dwindling as the big players take over. Now is the chance to give them a path to licensing and an opportunity at success instead of a massive corporation. Bringing jobs and success to real persons in our community.

\* For the last 10+ years we have been a team with the local & state regulators, not enemies, as many may assume. Cannabis can be a good business in the community. Good people can run cannabis businesses. We want to do well, fulfill our life's mission, earn a living but people need licenses to do that.

It is said the LiveScan is holding up the process and we too had to wait while the Police station in Placerville had the same thing set up for us. But 2.5+ yrs does not sound like a livescan issue. There are Cities/Counties all over that have overcome this issue, we can seek their help if we are actually stuck within this short term process.

To recap, the best action plan to combat the illicit market is through allowing regulated businesses to operate. You have locals currently wanting to try their hand at a crop and should be given a chance. This business should not be blocked after it was voted in by the voters in this county, hurdles delaying the process need to be addressed. Operators in the regulated market and Regulatory officials are on the same team, education and licensing are key in shifting the stigma, fear & reducing criminal activity.

Thank you for your time in reading this lengthy email, I do appreciate your open mind to allow something new that could benefit the county, community and farmers. My door is always open for classes, tours or questions.

Sincerely,

Annie Aubrey  
CEO Chuck's Wellness Center  
1318 Broadway  
Placerville

22-0793 Public Comment  
PC Rcvd 05-11-22