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pbscommissions - CASE#: R_2019-0012

Planning & Building Services

From: baby clark-miller <shaggyrufus@gmail.com>
To: <pbs@mendocinocounty.org>, <pbscommissions@mendocinocounty.org>
Date: 2/2/2022 4:50 PM
Subject: CASE#: R_2019-0012

I am writing to you in regards to CASE#: R_2019-0012. My name is Kyla Miller and I was born in Fort Bragg and have lived here my whole life. I'm writing in support of this project. Reading through the opposition letters I see people stating that this property should be reserved for housing and that this kind of operation is not conducive with a family neighborhood . Well I Live on jade court on the property WITH the project in question and have lived here for 3 years with my elderly father and niece and nephew that I care for. I also am employed by the company and I rely on this job because it's one of the only jobs in this area that pays a good living wage and still allows me time with my family. Without this Job and housing I will find myself in the same situation I did 4 years ago, unable to find housing because of the housing market and absurd amount of air BNB's. I am saddened by the fact I will most likely be forced to relocate from my life long home, family, friends and support system. One comment spoke of the stigma around cannabis but still wrote in opposition, I would urge people to try to break this stigma rather than perpetuate it. This company is made up of families, expecting parents, people who care for their elders. With what has happened to the cannabis industry lately in California and covid it's not easy or feasible to just up and move a small business.

I'm also aware that the accommodation zones received more than the required amount of support of 60% and was closer to a 75% approval, and that the planning commission recommended approval. Then with no good reasoning or explanation changed it to a denial.

The cannabis industry is also the one most regulated industry, the regulations and requirements cover protecting the water table, security requirements, all environmental concerns and beyond. I urge people to review these regulations before assuming that we are stealing your water and poisoning the ground.

Other comments spoke of the increase in crime and people speeding in the neighborhood. I believe that is due to drug (particularly methamphetamine) and alcohol use and black market crime, not legal cannabis. Legal cannabis actually has been statistically proven to reduce crime.

I am proud to work for this company because they give back to the community. I have personally been involved in multiple trash clean ups on Simpson lane, under Hair Creek Bridge, a cleanup of a massive homeless encampment with the rotary club. They have an adopted stretch of highway north of town. They have donated to the children's fund FBUSD autism program just to name a couple. This company truly cares about the community.

It seems that a lot of people writing in think that approving this means that it will be open season for new cannabis businesses to move into the neighborhood. That is simply not true, no new cultivation will be allowed this will just allow the people that have been growing here prior to 2016 to continue operation.

This business has been in this location for 10 years. Longer than a lot of the people that are upset have lived here. The problem began when people were alerted to our presence. I understand that people are scared because of the stigmas and falsehoods that revolve around cannabis. In conclusion I think it's important that we humanize this, we are not criminals or bad people, we are families, we are small local businesses struggling to survive and putting much needed tax revenue back into the county and state. For all of these reasons I am praying that you will please support this project.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Kyla Miller