

From: Sam Mendez [mailto:sammendez23@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2010 12:51 PM
To: Planning
Subject: unscrupulous agenda

dear members of the commission,
comments I made in public regarding your agenda and last's night's meeting that I thought you should hear. see you in October's Meeting (hopefully with better Agenda planning, or a new commission)

I feel we made progress at last night's meeting. However I wonder how two known impassioned topics (Medical Marijuana and the Fuller Road Parking Garage) made it on the same agenda? Did no one see that putting the two subjects on the same agenda would result in an all night meeting? Or is it that the commission did see, and knew exactly what they were doing when they made this agenda, putting Medical Marijuana at the end of it, forcing the sick and injured population of Ann Arbor sit on Hardwood benches for 5 hours if they wanted their voices heard. About 3/4 of the Medical Marijuana supporters that showed up to the meeting at 7pm were too debilitated to sit on those benches until midnight, and so had left by the time the Commission got to the topic, their voices going silent, and their needs falling on the deaf ears of the Commission. I even noticed 2 commissioners looking around the room and laughing at the beginning of the Medical Marijuana proceedings. PLEASE, IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE SICK AND INJURED, OR THEIR CAREGIVERS LIVING IN ANN ARBOR, DO NOT FORGET THIS WHEN IT IS ELECTION TIME!!!! The planning commission ought to hang it's collective head in SHAME for the lack of respect they showed to the sick and injured of this city. These people are appointed by the Mayor, and we must let the Mayor know that we will not tolerate such a clear abuse of power as this commission showed when knowingly making out last night's agenda in a fashion that prevented much of the sick and injured from being heard. Call the Mayor today and let them know they do have your vote in the future, unless they address this unscrupulous Planning Commission. We must see this commission dissolved immediately, and replaced with one that has the needs of all the city's people in mind. The sick and injured should not be made to suffer for wanting their government to hear their voices. We live in modern day America, not Cold War era Russia, and the Ann Arbor Planning Commission needs to wake up to this fact....S.Mendez

From: "Matthew Johnson" <embejay65@mac.com>

Date: Tue, 21 Sep 2010

Subject: Letter to Planning Commission

Dear Planning Commission,

I regret that I cannot attend this evening's meeting. I would like to offer in writing, therefore, my strong support of the proposed ordinance. Specifically, I would like to voice my support for the proposed changes to the city code regarding location:

- No medical marijuana dispensary shall be located on a parcel within 200 feet of a residential district, and shall be located only in D1, D2, C2, C3, M1 or M2 (downtown, commercial and light industrial) zoning districts.
- No medical marijuana dispensary shall be established within 500 feet of another medical marijuana dispensary.
- No medical marijuana dispensary shall be located within 1,000 feet of a parcel on which a public school is located.

As a resident of a neighborhood whose periphery currently houses a medical marijuana dispensary, my concerns revolve primarily around maintaining the character, safety, and quality of our neighborhood. Without resorting to stereotyping even recreational marijuana users--indeed, I voted for the medical marijuana law and continue to support it strongly--I would like to say that residents of our neighborhood have already reported visible changes and raised concerns about possible suspicious behavior. While it is true that this may be due, at least in part, to the heightened concern and vigilance as a result of the first burglary in our neighborhood in probably a generation, and that such a crime may result in undue fears and paranoia, there is no denying that there are strong and legitimate concerns regarding the location of a dispensary in a residential area, particularly when the dispensary does not--indeed cannot--provide adequate parking for its patrons.

However, even if a dispensary can provide adequate parking, it has been made clear in our neighborhood that some--perhaps many--dispensary patrons choose to park a block or more from the business itself, apparently hoping to keep their vehicles from being identified by dispensary passersby. This has led to increased foot traffic of strangers in a neighborhood that serves as home to many small children. A neighbor also recently reported seeing someone smoking pot in his car, an activity that can certainly occur any time, anywhere, but is just as certain to increase in likelihood near a dispensary. The undesirability of such behavior in a neighborhood whose streets are often being crisscrossed by pets and children should go without saying.

Given that even with the proposed ordinance, potential providers of medical marijuana still have many options for locating their businesses, the ordinance would not unduly restrict the ability of dispensary owners or their patrons to provide or purchase marijuana for medical purposes.

I strongly urge the Commission to recommend the proposed ordinance to City Council.

Thank you for your time and work on this matter,

Matt Johnson
Resident, city of Ann Arbor