

April 17, 2018

Dear Planning Commissioners:

This evening you have an opportunity to determine the continued progress of Ann Arbor's Lower Town. Originally settled as the working class area of Ann Arbor with stockyards, railroad, natural gas and electrical plants, it has taken decades and even generations to recover from the placement of these environmental hazards. My family has owned a section of property overlooking the Huron River, gas plant and electrical substation for over 150 years, and we have a true vested interest in our community!

You have been approached to approve a medicinal marijuana distribution site at the corner of Broadway and Plymouth Road. Long used as a church, gift shop, floral shop and then most recently a children's center, I strongly oppose the placement of a marijuana dispensary at this site! With the projected building of apartments and retail on the old Kroger site, and clean-up/redevelopment of Lower Town, do we really need to go backwards? The area is beginning to rebound, families are moving in to affordable housing, the nearby elementary school is part of the STEAM program and now someone wants to add the element of marijuana dispensary! All of these positives towards the enhancement of Lower Town would be immediately negated and adversely impacted by the dispensary!

Please deny this application and allow the Lower Town residents to continue to improve our neighborhoods, increase the area to **appropriate** retail and do what is right for the area! We don't need this type of redevelopment, an increase in crime and especially so close to homes/families and children!

Sincerely,

*Mary Howley-Visel*

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