

ZEN BUDDHIST TEMPLE

1214 Packard Street, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104
(734) 761-6520 AnnArbor@ZenBuddhistTemple.org

March 29, 2018

Dear Members of the Ann Arbor City Planning Commission:

On behalf of the three clergy persons and members of the Zen Buddhist Temple, I am writing to express our opposition to the proposed medical marijuana dispensary at 1202 Packard, which stands for approval before the Planning Commission. Our buildings are located 1214 and 1224 Packard, right next door to the proposed clinic.

We do not object to these facilities in general, but we do have specific concerns about how the marijuana provisioning center would affect our services to our Sangha (the community of Buddhist practitioners), and to our neighborhood over time.

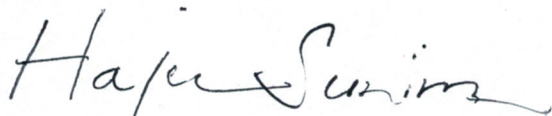
- Families/ children services: In our Zen Buddhist community there is a thriving children's and families program that serves children from infancy through teenage years. We regularly have 60-70 people who attend our family services on Sundays in our Buddha Hall at 1224 Packard Street. This number swells to 120-150 for special events such as Buddha's Birthday. Our situation is similar to that of a school, with safety of children being a primary concern. We worry about the exposure of children to a medical marijuana facility each time they come to the Temple for religious services.
- Encouraging Sobriety: The Zen Buddhist Temple serves as a rare and precious zone of sobriety with no reminder of intoxicants for many of our service attendees and members who are recovering from addictions to alcohol, drugs and more. A Refuge Recovery group (Buddhist equivalent to AA) meets on our premises every Sunday. The direct proximity of a medical marijuana facility could be triggering for them.
- Site Plan and Parking: The Special Use Application includes bright lights, many security cameras and gated parking. That could increase were this to become a recreational facility as has been the pattern in other states where recreational use of marijuana is legal. While we appreciate the need for security, the presence of these measures creates a foreboding /unfriendly atmosphere in our current family friendly block and may drive away Temple visitors/ new members.

Finally, it is our understanding that there are three other medical marijuana dispensaries very close to this neighborhood so that anyone who is in need of services would be able to attain them without enduring hardship.

We are deeply grateful to live on a peaceful, vibrant block like that which is coming to life now, with good neighbors including Argus Farm Stop, Toarmina Pizza, Arbor Vacuum and the Coffee Works. We do not believe that a medical marijuana facility would enhance that community fabric.

We deeply respect your important role in making wise decisions for our community. Thank you for your time and for listening to our objection to the request for zoning a medical marijuana dispensary.

On behalf of the Zen Buddhist Temple community,
With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Haju Sunim". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Haju Sunim
Senior Priest
Ann Arbor Zen Buddhist Temple