

Communication from Public

Name: Tony Fong

Date Submitted: 02/03/2025 06:37 PM

Council File No: 20-1125-S1

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Tony Fong, and I would like to thank Councilmember Padilla for her time to listen to the cannabis community and our struggles. I have been the owner of a licensed dispensary since 2007, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak today regarding Item Number 6 on the agenda—the proposal to allow existing medical marijuana dispensaries to continue conducting licensed cannabis activities at their current locations. Studio City Caregivers, DBA Markt Dispensary, has been a city-registered cannabis dispensary since 2007. From the beginning, we have responsibly cultivated and packaged cannabis products while maintaining full compliance with local and state regulations. Throughout our years of operation, we have been good neighbors, and we have never received any formal complaints about our cultivation or distribution activities. Our cultivation facility, approximately 8,000 square feet, is considered small by industry standards. It operates discreetly, without disruption to the community, and has been inspected and approved by both local and state officials. Operating a legal cannabis retail business in today's economic climate is increasingly challenging. Over the past four years, our revenues have declined significantly. Since 2021, our retail sales have dropped to nearly one-third of what they once were. I have spoken with the Department of Cannabis Regulation, and they have confirmed that this struggle is not unique to us—many legal dispensaries are facing similar difficulties. Inflation and rising operational costs since the pandemic have only compounded these challenges. Our on-site cultivation has been essential to our survival. Without it, we would not have been able to sustain our retail business. Relocating our cultivation operation would not only impose a financial burden we cannot afford, but it would also erase years of investment, hard work, and compliance. Furthermore, illegal delivery services and unlicensed tobacco shops continue to undercut legal businesses by selling cannabis products at significantly lower prices. Our ability to cultivate on-site allows us to remain competitive by offering affordable products to our customers. If we are forced to relocate our cultivation, we will struggle to compete and survive in this industry. I urge the council to consider the significant impact this decision will have on long-standing, compliant businesses like ours. Allowing us to

continue operating at our existing locations is crucial for our sustainability and for maintaining a legal, regulated cannabis industry in our city. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Communication from Public

Name: Ming

Date Submitted: 02/03/2025 08:39 PM

Council File No: 20-1125-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Council, I am writing in support of our proposed cultivation activity at 3625 Cahuenga blvd, Los Angeles CA 90068. We have proactively worked with our Neighborhood Council to ensure community alignment and received full approval from all members. Our building presents unique challenges in securing tenants, and without the ability to conduct cultivation activities, the cost of leasing will become unsustainable, forcing us out. This would not only impact our business but also leave a vacant property in the community. Additionally, we have operated responsibly with no complaints regarding our activities, demonstrating our commitment to compliance and being a good neighbor. We respectfully request your approval to continue contributing positively to the local economy while maintaining our strong relationship with the community. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sincerely, Ming Fong Studio City Caregivers Inc.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 02/03/2025 10:01 PM

Council File No: 20-1125-S1

Comments for Public Posting: As someone from the neighborhood, I am in favor of allowing Markt Dispensary to continue operating. Besides bringing a bit of life to our lonely part of Cahuenga, they are good and reliable neighbors. They clean the sidewalks each morning, which can get quite messy overnight with In-N-Out trash. They are very quiet neighbors, which is very, very important. They don't stink up the neighborhood, which is also very important. Many of their staff live in the area as well and I have gotten to know many of them. They are great folks and have been good neighbors for many years. I think Markt is an asset to our neighborhood and believe it should be allowed to continue operating as usual.