

To Hayward City Council,

I have lived in Hayward for the last 74 years. 27743 Pensacola Way Hayward. I have known Esther Lopez for 30 years. Esther has prepared my taxes, and she has been my Real Estate agent and my CPA all these years. Esthers drive for community awareness is something I don't see nowadays. The amount of time and money she puts into the city of Hayward is something I admire. Having a Cannabis business owner that is a Hayward business owner and not a county business owner is beneficial for our city of Hayward.

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill and Grove because I believe the business will benefit the community by:

I am 74-year-old women who uses Cannabis as a form of medication. As an elderly person I put myself in jeopardy every time I need to replenish my supply. Garden of Eden is the closest to me and has the most dangerous parking or lack there of parking. People are always illegally stopping and getting dropped off on the busy street double parking. I have complained to the staff at Garden of Eden and they have done nothing about it. I now go all the way to Union City and cannot support my own city I live in because I don't feel safe at their establishment. I have seen numerous fender benders and people verbally fighting over parking spaces and it is very unsafe feeling. I cannot subject myself to that.

Walgreens has the accessibility with multiple entrances and parking capacity to deter any congestion and possible arguments in the parking lots. Having a bigger facility, I feel safer knowing that they will have more security and awareness of the surroundings of the buildings. The Walgreens facility also has legal crosswalks so no will have to illegally j-walk and put themselves at risk running across foothill. Customers are parking all over the place due to lack of Garden of Eden having their own parking lot and it is causing unnecessary congestion to an area that isn't set up for that.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns and listen to a long-time resident. I hope as a city we take this opportunity to provide jobs for our community and money for our city.

Thank you

Name

Roberta Chen

Signature

Roberta Chen

Date

9/30/25

October 5, 2025

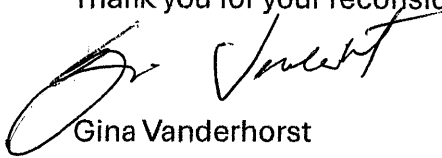
To The City of Hayward:

I am writing on behalf of Esther Lopez. I have known Esther Lopez for over 10 years. I first became acquainted with her while organizing a fund-raiser for the Susan G. Komen Foundation at the Weekes Park Community Center. Esther was foundational in the success of the event. She was instrumental in bringing the community together to support a noble cause, for which I am eternally grateful.

Over the years I have developed a deep respect for Ms. Lopez, her kindness, compassion, and generosity. Esther is known for her deep sense of ethics, especially as an independent small business owner. She helped us with the sale of our home. Her business sense and professionalism are praiseworthy. The City of Hayward and the community at large are fortunate to have her.

As an entrepreneur, Esther has shown true grit in the pursuit of creating a cannabis venue in Hayward. I am in support of Ms. Lopez establishing this venture at the Walgreens on Foothill Blvd. The location is ideal as 1) it isn't residential 2) there aren't any schools close by 3) there is already a dispensary in the area and competition should be welcomed 4) it is already a high traffic area 5) it will reduce blite 6) the city will benefit in the end.

Thank you for your reconsideration.



Gina Vanderhorst
27692 E. 16th Street
Hayward, Ca 94544
gqdeuce@gmail.com

Frances Romero

Arbor Ave Hayward

(510) 689-6923

10/16/2025

To:

Honorable Members of the Hayward City Council

777 B Street

Hayward, CA 94541

Subject: Letter of Support – Responsible Cannabis Use and Parenting

Dear Members of the Hayward City Council,

My name is Frances Romero, and I am a resident of Hayward writing in support of Phenos of Hayward. I want to share my perspective as both a parent and a medical cannabis patient.

I am permanently disabled and began using cannabis about five years ago to help with pain management, sleep, and appetite. Before that, I was prescribed multiple pain medications, which often left me feeling disconnected and dependent. Cannabis provided a safer, more natural way to manage my symptoms and improved my overall quality of life.

As a mother, I made sure to have open and honest conversations with my children about my use of cannabis. I explained the importance of responsible and medicinal use, just as one would approach any other form of medication. I never allowed my children to smoke while growing up, and instead focused on teaching them about choices, discipline, and self-awareness.

Today, both of my children are grown and successful. One is a gym owner and personal trainer who chooses not to smoke at all, and the other uses cannabis occasionally as an adult. I'm proud of the fact that they were raised to understand cannabis not as a 'gateway drug,' but as something that can have medical benefits when used responsibly. We spoke often about peer pressure and making wise decisions, and I believe those conversations made all the difference.

I support responsible, community-based dispensaries like Phenos that emphasize

education, safety, and regulation. Facilities like these provide access to tested products and informed staff — a far better option than unregulated sources. I believe in a balanced approach where adults can make informed choices while children are protected and educated.

Thank you for your time and for listening to a mother's story and perspective.

Sincerely,
Frances Romero

John and Christina Afilleje
825 Douglas Street
Hayward, CA 94544
(510) 975-5705

September 30, 2025

Dear City Council,

We are happy to write this letter of support for Esther Lopez and "Aunt Honeys/Phenos Hayward".

We have known Ms. Lopez for 30+ years, personally and professionally. Ms. Lopez holds impressive enthusiasm, enthusiastic embrace for change, communication skills and a professional demeanor. She is reliable, dedicated and eternally upbeat. She has an unwavering commitment to exceeding customer's expectation. We commend her outstanding level of service, professionalism and follow-through.

For instance, Ms. Lopez was our realtor when it came time to sell our home. She was in communication with us daily or every other day.

At Top Tier Financial, Ms. Lopez's other business in Hayward, she prepares out taxes yearly.

When we had unexpected death in the family, Ms. Lopez checked in with our family from time to time. Also, she sent us flowers and bought us meals.

Ms. Lopez is very resourceful. For example, when our kitchen sink was leaking, she referred us to a plumber. Another time, our bathroom wall needed repairing, Ms. Lopez sent a repairman to our home.

Even though Ms. Lopez has a busy schedule, she takes time out to attend or tries to participate in the Hayward community events such as the Pacific Islander Festival or the Hawaiian Festival.

Ms. Esther Lopez and the new site location have our highest support because both will bring added value to the city of Hayward and its community.

Page 2.

John & Christina
Afleje

Thank you in advance,

John and Christina Afleje

Letter of Support – Phenos of Hayward

10/13/2025

To: Hayward City Council
City of Hayward, California

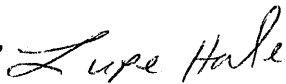
Dear Hayward City Council Members,

As a daily commuter who travels along Foothill Boulevard and Grove Way, I've noticed consistent congestion and parking overflow near the Garden of Eden area. The backup extends throughout the day and impacts the normal traffic flow for residents and workers commuting through Hayward.

I support Phenos of Hayward's proposed new location at the former Walgreens site on Foothill and Grove. This location offers dedicated parking and a more structured layout that will help relieve some of the existing congestion in that area.

Esther has demonstrated a commitment to community safety, organization, and maintaining a professional business presence that aligns with Hayward's goals for responsible development. I believe this project will bring structure and balance.

Sincerely,



Guadalupe Hale
21920 ARBOR AVE
Hayward

510. 825-2337

Received
10/27/2025

From:
Alvino Jacobo Jr
O'Harron Avenue
Hayward, CA 94544
510-612-4949

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Alvino Jacobo Jr, and I am a long-time resident of Hayward. I grew up in Russell City, where my parents were part of the original community before we had to move. Our family later lived in the big house across from Robot Park, which is now the firehouse, and I currently reside on O'Harron Avenue off Tennyson RD.

I've known Esther Lopez since the days of Valle Vista, Holiday Bowl, and Red Devil—she's always been a real one. Over the years, our paths went in different directions, but we have always shown each other respect and support whenever we crossed paths. About fifteen years ago, I reconnected with Esther and have since watched her journey unfold as she navigated the challenges and hoops within the City of Hayward.

I've seen firsthand how she overcame obstacles, including dealing with business owners who took advantage of her early efforts, and how she has grown into one of the most educated and respected professionals in the cannabis industry today. Esther's partnerships with PCF, Bert Sarkis, his consultants, and the Premier Team show her commitment to operating at the highest level of professional and community impact.

Esther's ethics, leadership, and resilience are exactly the qualities Hayward should support in a cannabis business owner. She gets things done and carries herself with integrity, transparency, and respect for her city. I believe Phenos of Hayward represents a positive direction for the cannabis community and the kind of operation that will bring pride, structure, and economic benefit to Foothill Boulevard and the city overall.

Thank you for considering this letter of support for Esther Lopez and Phenos of Hayward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alvino Jacobo Jr', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Received.
10.21.2025

From:
Julie Mora
Huntwood Avenue
Hayward, CA 94544
510-719-6508

Hello City Council Members,

My name is Julie Mora, and I am a senior citizen and long-time resident of Hayward. I have two daughters and three grandchildren, and I take great pride in being part of this community for many years.

A few years back, I suffered from an aneurysm and was told I would never walk, talk, or drive again. I spent nearly a year in the hospital. Today, through faith, determination, and the right care, I am able to walk, talk, and even drive again—without a tracheotomy.

I use cannabis for sleep and pain management, and Esther Lopez has been a great help to me in that journey. She took the time to educate me about safe and responsible cannabis use, even advising me when I was using too much and buying Vapes that were not tested at smoke shops or friends. Esther truly cares about the well-being of her community—she stopped allowing deliveries to my home to reduce the consumption and helped me make healthier choices, including driving me to Nug in San Leandro where the products are clean and safer.

I am very excited for Esther's new store, Phenos of Hayward, to open. It will be closer to my home, and I know she will continue to provide compassionate, honest, and affordable access to cannabis for seniors like myself who live on a fixed income.

Esther's store will not only bring convenience but also peace of mind, knowing it's operated by someone who genuinely cares about helping people in a safe, responsible, and educational way.

Thank you for allowing me to share my story

Mrs. Mora

Julie Mora

Letter

taxtender@outlo.../Inbox



510Dtoro <510dtoro@gmail.com>

To: Taxtender <taxtender@outlook.com>

Oct 9 at 11:06 AM

Don Toro jr
Dtorojr@yahoo.com
27675 Del Norte ct
Hayward ca. 94545

I've known Ester for more than 15 years. I have used her resources for occasions needing professional assistance specifically regarding taxes and more.

I have always appreciated her work within our community weather it be backpack giveaways for students to community outreach providing for our local homeless.

Her morals and values will be a huge contribution to our city via her ethics and hard work to succeed and provide.

I 100% fully support local owners who also contribute back to our community.

On occasion my wife and I would drive to Modesto for family care. We found PCF in Modesto. This was our first of many visits then after. Their service, safety, products and prices impressed us to return.

Ester's business would thrive at that location with immediate success.

She opened a business office in the local community where I live. I believe the presence of her business shows the commitment and validates the seriousness needed of her services.

Don

10-16-2025


Dear Hayward City Council Members,

As a nearby resident who frequently passes through Foothill Boulevard and Grove Way, I have seen how parking congestion and heavy traffic have affected this part of the city. Many people park in the Walgreens shopping center and walk to nearby jobs and leaving cars parked during their shifts.

I support the proposal for Phenos of Hayward to operate at the former Walgreens site. The business will have its own controlled parking and structured management, which will help reduce parking misuse and improve the overall traffic flow along Foothill.

Esther and Bert have shown that they are dedicated to being a responsible and organized business that brings value to our community. Their project will help restore balance and accessibility in a busy part of Hayward.

Thank You,


Pauline Baca
24746 SOTO ROAD
HAYWARD RESIDENT

510.460.2791

Letter of Support for Phenos Hayward

Hayward City Council
777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541

Subject: Support for Phenos Hayward – Responsible Cannabis Operation & Community Partner

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in strong support of Esther and Bert's team and their efforts to bring a responsible, community-oriented cannabis business—Phenos Hayward—to our city. Their experience and professionalism in the industry represent exactly the type of operators we should welcome into Hayward.

Cannabis businesses like Phenos not only generate significant tax revenue for local programs, but they also strengthen our community through education, outreach, and wellness initiatives. Esther's team has a proven record of giving back through local donations, neighborhood events, and programs that uplift residents and small businesses alike.

Phenos will implement 24-hour state-of-the-art security, including monitored video surveillance, alarm integration, and professional security personnel. These measures help create safer streets for both neighboring businesses and residents.

While some may oppose any cannabis business, it's important to recognize that opposition arises in every industry. What matters most is responsible operation—and this team exemplifies that.

Regarding the concern that Hayward is 'clustering' cannabis uses: city staff originally drew the operational map that limits where such businesses can locate. Esther has repeatedly requested to expand zoning into industrial areas to diversify the city's options. Unfortunately, most of those sites are under HOA restrictions that prohibit cannabis, leaving very few viable locations. The proposed site offers a compliant, visible, and secure location—one that benefits both Hayward's economy and its community fabric.

I urge the City Council to view Phenos Hayward not simply as another business, but as a partner in education, community wellness, and local reinvestment.

David Rutherford
26790 Wanchula Way
HWD 94545

10/14/2025

Dear Council Members,

As a Hayward resident and active community member, I want to share my support for Phenos of Hayward. This business represents integrity, safety, and opportunity for our city.

The talk about "clustering" overlooks what makes Phenos unique—they are not just another dispensary. They are part of the Hayward community, providing jobs, sponsoring youth programs, and maintaining a professional, discreet retail presence with no negative neighborhood impact.

Esther Lopez has earned the trust and respect of residents like me. I encourage the Council to approve their relocation and allow them to continue contributing positively to Hayward's growth.

Sincerely,

Trisha Ramirez


22628 ORION ST

Hayward Resident/business owner in CV for over 30yrs



johnny barnes <jbarnes510@gmail.com>
To: taxtender@outlook.com

Oct 7 at 6:13 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Johnny Barnes, and I have known Esther Lopez for over 23 years. Throughout this extensive period, Ms. Lopez has consistently served as a significant role model and, at times, a maternal figure in my life. She has provided invaluable guidance through various life circumstances and has always prioritized my well-being. In addition to our longstanding personal relationship, I have had the opportunity to work for her in multiple capacities, including as a driver and in several other roles. As a professional painter, I have benefited greatly from her support and mentorship, which have been instrumental in my career development. Ms. Lopez possesses substantial expertise in the cannabis industry and demonstrates remarkable intelligence and leadership within this sector.

Ms. Lopez has made significant contributions to her community in various capacities, particularly by assisting individuals in need and providing essential resources. I hold considerable admiration for her ongoing efforts within the cannabis industry, and I am confident that her initiatives will have a positive impact on our community. Esther is characterized by her compassion, generosity, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

I have personally visited numerous cannabis dispensaries in the area, including The Garden of Eden, Cookies, and We Are Hemp. In my experience, these establishments are often prohibitively expensive, poorly located, and lack safe, convenient parking for their customers. Furthermore, these businesses appear to prioritize profit over the genuine needs of their patients and patrons. Given Ms. Lopez's background in business and her demonstrated commitment to community service, I have great confidence and respect for her vision and objectives.

I can personally attest to the therapeutic benefits of cannabis, particularly when compared to opiates and alcohol. Having struggled with addiction to both substances in the past, I have found that cannabis has been instrumental in managing over twenty years of anxiety, ADHD, and Tourette's syndrome. Beyond alleviating my disabilities, cannabis has markedly improved my quality of life by providing effective relief from chronic pain resulting from multiple dirt bike and motorcycle accidents. I strongly prefer cannabis as a safer alternative to addictive opiates, which have caused significant harm to many individuals. Although cannabis may have an odor in some forms, it is comparatively benign when evaluated against the risks associated with alcohol and opiates.

In summary, I hold Ms. Lopez's efforts in the highest regard, not only for the advancements she seeks to bring to the cannabis industry, but also for her dedication to improving the well-being of her community. Her focus on accessibility, patient safety, and affordable pricing enables individuals to obtain necessary treatment without turning to addictive prescription medications or the misuse of alcohol. I sincerely hope that this letter conveys the integrity of Ms. Lopez's intentions, as her approach stands in stark contrast to that of large corporations, which often prioritize profit over public welfare.

Respectfully submitted,
Johnny Barnes
Sent from my iPhone

Rachelle Mora
Wauchula Way
Hayward, CA 94545

October 20, 2025

Dear Members of the Hayward City Council,

My name is Rachelle Mora, and I am a proud resident of Hayward and a devoted boy mom. I have lived in this community for many years and have always cared deeply about the direction our city is moving.

While I personally do not partake in cannabis, my husband does, and through him I have seen how responsible, safe, and beneficial use can be when managed by good people. I fully support the idea of Phenos opening on Foothill Boulevard.

I know Esther Lopez personally—she is an angel and one of the hardest-working women I know. Anyone who truly takes the time to see her heart and commitment understands that she is genuine, honest, and driven by community purpose. Esther and her team will bring an exceptional level of professionalism, integrity, and compassion to the cannabis community here in Hayward.

I wholeheartedly support Esther Lopez and her team at Phenos and encourage the City Council to approve their relocation and operation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Rachelle Mora
Hayward Resident

10/23/25, 10:02 AM

Rossio letter - Yahoo Mail

Rossio letter

Yahoo Mail/Inbox



Rossio Sanchez <rossiosanchez3870@gmail.com>
To: taxtender@yahoo.com

Oct 21 at 7:23 PM

Dear Hayward City Council Members,

As a long-time Hayward resident and small business owner, I've seen how our city continues to grow and evolve. With that growth, it's important that we support projects that bring structure, safety, and long-term value to the community.

I believe the proposed Phenos of Hayward location at the former Walgreens site is one of those projects. The team behind Phenos has a clear vision for creating a well-managed business that prioritizes organization, compliance, and respect for the surrounding neighborhood. This development would bring a positive economic impact while utilizing an existing property that has remained underused for too long.

I've reviewed their plans and met the people behind the project, and I believe their professionalism and commitment to community standards will enhance this corridor. Rather than add to congestion or disorganization, Phenos has shown they are intentional about responsible operations and maintaining a safe, clean, and accessible environment.

Hayward benefits when we welcome responsible, community-focused businesses like this one. I fully support the approval of this project and encourage the Council to do the same.

Sincerely,
Rossio Sanchez

Received:
Sept. 27, 2025

To the Hayward City Council,

My name is Patrice Renee, and I live at 22831 1st St., Hayward, CA. As a longtime Hayward community member and supporter of the applicant's work, I've consistently seen their integrity, strong business ethics, and commitment to serving our city.

I fully support their application to open a new cannabis dispensary at the former Walgreens on Foothill & Grove. Beyond the economic growth this will bring, it will also provide safe, regulated access to cannabis with proven holistic and medical benefits—helping community members manage chronic pain, anxiety, insomnia, and other health challenges in a responsible and supportive environment. I believe this team is exceptionally qualified to run the site in a way that is safe, professional, and beneficial to our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Patrice Renee 22831 1st St., Hayward, CA Phone: 925-623-6861

Shanell Mora
271 Edwin Way
Hayward, CA 94544

October 09, 2025

Hayward City Council
777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541

Subject: Cannabis Clustering and Competition

Dear Council Members,

I've heard discussions about Hayward 'clustering' cannabis businesses. I'd like to offer another perspective.

In any thriving city, healthy competition is what drives businesses to improve, innovate, and give back. Cannabis is no different. Multiple responsible operators in one area create more jobs, expand tax revenue, and ensure customers have safe, legal access to tested products.

As Esther often says, 'There's enough love to go around.' She and Bert welcome other operators because their goal isn't to dominate—it's to build community and elevate standards.

Limiting responsible operators based on proximity alone doesn't reflect today's reality. Cities across California like Oakland, Santa Rosa, and Palm Springs have learned that diverse operators can thrive side by side, contributing more to the community than a monopoly ever could.

Please consider this when making your decision.

Respectfully,

Shanell Mora
510*719*6508

Susan Rivera
Susan & Salena Skin Care
25916 SPRING DRIVE
Hayward, CA 94542

October 09, 2025

Hayward City Council
777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541

Subject: Benefits of Cannabis vs. Alcohol

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to share my perspective as a 70-year-old long-time Hayward resident and I am a small Business Owner in Hayward and supporter of responsible cannabis operations like Phenos Hayward.

Cannabis has long been misunderstood, while alcohol continues to cause thousands of deaths each year from drunk driving, liver disease, and addiction. In contrast, cannabis offers therapeutic, medicinal, and wellness benefits when regulated and used responsibly. Businesses like Esther's and Bert's ensure that those products are tested, safe, and properly sold to adults—not distributed on the street.

Esther's approach to community education helps remove stigma and replace it with facts, science, and respect. Legal, well-regulated cannabis operations promote public safety, community health, and tax revenue—without the destructive impacts seen with alcohol abuse.

Please support Phenos Hayward and others like it who are building a safer, more informed community.

Best Regards,

Sue Rivera

Letter of Support – Phenos of Hayward Cannabis Club (Former Walgreens Site)

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kimberly Palafox, and my address is 931 Harmony Dr., Hayward, California. I have known Esther Lopez for nearly six years, and in that time, I have witnessed her dedication, integrity, and consistent efforts to uplift the community.

Over the years, I've worked alongside Esther in women empowerment-focused business projects, and I have seen her lead with honesty, kindness, and professionalism. She has supported families—including my own—through major life decisions, such as helping my parents purchase a home, and she continues to be a trusted and respected member of our community.

Esther has also played a direct role in helping me grow my own business. She has generously connected me with her own clientele, provided one-on-one support, and guided me as I developed my entrepreneurial path. She has supported my education, taught me valuable financial skills, and encouraged me to take part in workshops that expanded my knowledge. Her mentorship has been instrumental in shaping me as an entrepreneur, and I know she has done the same for many other young adults and community members who look up to her as a role model.

Esther has always conducted herself with high ethical standards, and her commitment to creating safe, welcoming, and positive spaces is undeniable. I believe the Phenos of Hayward Cannabis Club project at the former Walgreens site on Foothill and Grove will be managed with the same level of integrity and responsibility I have seen from her over the years. This site would not only bring economic growth but also provide a safe, professional environment that reflects Esther's character and her proven record of community engagement.

For these reasons, I fully support the approval of this project and encourage the City Council to recognize the value that Esther and her team will bring to the area.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Palafox
931 Harmony Dr.
Hayward, CA

October 25, 2025

Letter of Support

From: Leasette Macklin
146 El Dorado Ave
Hayward, CA 94541

To: Hayward City Council

Dear Council Members,

My name is Leasette Macklin, and I have known Esther Lopez for over 10 years. I'm writing in support of her and the proposed Phenos of Hayward location.

A few years ago, I went through a difficult time in my life. I was an alcoholic, got into a car accident, and had my driver's license suspended. Through my own determination—and with the help of Esther, who introduced me to my AA sponsor—I began attending meetings and rebuilding my life. That connection changed everything for me.

Today, I'm proud to say I've remained sober, and I continue to attend AA by choice. I also use cannabis responsibly to help with sleep and anxiety, and it has played a big role in supporting my recovery and overall well-being.

I support Phenos of Hayward because it will bring something our community needs — safe, tested products in a location that offers much better parking and easier access than Garden of Eden or Cookies Hayward. Its proximity to the freeway, gas station, and local restaurants makes it a convenient, quick, and well-managed stop for adults who value safety and responsibility.

Esther has been a positive influence in my life and in the lives of many others. She brings compassion, accountability, and professionalism to everything she does. I strongly encourage the Council to approve this project.

Sincerely,
Leasette Macklin
146 El Dorado Ave
Hayward, CA 94541

October 27, 2025

10-13-2025

To: Hayward City Council

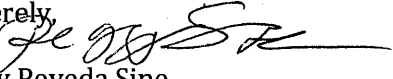
Dear Council Members,

My name is Peggy Poveda Sipe, a longtime salon owner and local business operator in the Hayward community. I am writing in full support of Phenos of Hayward and their efforts to open at the Foothill and Grove location.

As a local business owner, I understand the value of companies that invest in their city and uplift the community. Esther has shown genuine care for Hayward—participating in outreach, supporting local events, and building partnerships with surrounding businesses.

The idea of “clustering” should not overshadow the positive difference they make. Hayward deserves reputable operators who operate safely, responsibly, and give back to the city. Esther & Bert has and will continue demonstrate that commitment from day one.

Sincerely,


Peggy Poveda Sipe

Salon Owner – Hayward, CA

510.586.2228

Christina Cabrera

October 20, 2025

542 Janice Ave, Hayward, CA. 94544

A colleague's recommendation first led us to Esther Lopez, marking the beginning of our valuable connection. Her professionalism, expertise, and dedication have greatly enhanced the financial well-being of both me and my family. Esther handles the tax preparation for six additional family members, exemplifying her exceptional integrity, community engagement, and outstanding business ethics.

I believe that a local cannabis store can greatly benefit our community by creating employment opportunities and boosting local tax revenue, which can be reinvested into public services and infrastructure. Supporting such a store represents advancement and has the potential to bring about positive changes within our community.

Thank you,

Christina Cabrera

Rammar Jackson Jr.

25141 Calaroga Ave.
Hayward, Ca 94545
(510)988-2821

To Whom This May Concern,

Esther Lopez is a very special woman! She is my 2nd cousin but is loved like a Mother! I've known her my whole life and for someone who has always been financially stable she is always pushing herself to be better. Seeking to not only continue her success story but to be a resource to her family and community. There is not a single person I would trust with my financial securities. With Esther's heart of gold, strive for perfection and flawless business ethics there isn't a business venture that she follows that wouldn't benefit our community. I stand with Esther Lopez 100%

Sincerely,

Rammar Jackson Jr.

Letter of Support – Phenos of Hayward Cannabis Club (Former Walgreens Site)

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jorge Muñoz, and I live at 25200 Santa Clara St., Hayward, CA 94544. I work in the medical field at Kaiser Permanente in San Leandro, and I am writing in support of Esther Lopez and the Phenos of Hayward Cannabis Club project.

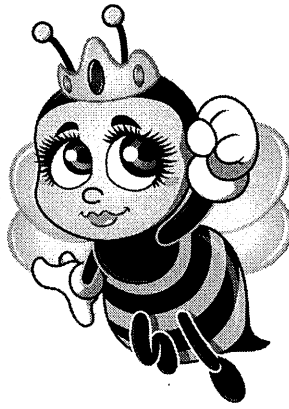
As a healthcare professional, I value safe and well-regulated access to cannabis products, particularly for topicals and CBD. Currently, I often drive to Oakland or San Leandro to purchase what I need, and while I have also tried Garden of Eden, parking and accessibility are always difficult. Having a safe, reliable, and well-managed location closer to home—like Phenos of Hayward—would be a tremendous benefit to myself and many others in the community.

I believe Esther Lopez is the right person to manage this project. She has a proven track record of professionalism, integrity, and community commitment. Under her leadership, I have no doubt that Phenos of Hayward will provide a safe, responsible, and accessible environment for patients and customers alike.

For these reasons, I strongly support the approval of this project and encourage the City Council to recognize the value it will bring to Hayward residents.

Sincerely,
Jorge Muñoz
25200 Santa Clara St.
Hayward, CA 94544

October 25, 2025



Letter of Support

Date: 10/13/25

To: Hayward City Council

My name is Victoria and I live/work at Hayward.

I have known Esther Lopez for 5 years. She has helped me with
tax preparation and advice

(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

Contributing to small business growth and
the diversity of business in City of Hayward. This
allows for additional tax revenue as well as
Provides medicinal alternatives ~~and~~ to the residents
of the city and surrounding areas.

Respectfully,

Signature: 

Printed Name: Victoria Baca

Address: 24746 Soto Rd, Hayward, CA 94544

Phone/Email: victoriambaca@gmail.com

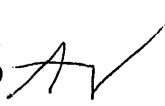
My name is Alex Vizcaino, a longtime resident of Hayward and owner of my own salon. I have known Esther Lopez for over twenty years, and during that time, she has been a guiding light for both my business and personal growth.

From the very beginning, Esther has helped me organize and manage my business finances. Without her, I would have been completely lost when it came to keeping my expenses and records in order. She has guided me through every step of building and sustaining my business, always with patience, kindness, and professionalism.

There were many times when I was struggling or overwhelmed, and Esther would call me into her office, making sure my taxes were filed on time. She told me not to worry about her fees and filed my returns without taking a dime. She has done this more than once—her generosity and heart for her community are unmatched.

Esther is not only a trusted professional but also a true leader in Hayward. She gives back constantly, helps others succeed, and uplifts everyone around her. I fully support Esther and her new Premiere Team, and I know any business she leads will be successful and will continue to make a positive impact on our community.

She is truly an angel—a godsent gift to Hayward and to all of us who have been blessed to work with her.

Alex Vizcaino 
Hayward, California
Owner, Salon

510 717-9886
October 27, 2025

October 11, 2025

Hayward City Council
777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541

Subject: Personal Testimony of Compassion and Recovery

Dear Council Members,

I want to share a personal story that shows who Esther truly is beyond her business title.

Years ago, I was struggling with heroin/Opioid addiction and living on the streets of Hayward. I was a friend of her son, AJ. When Esther saw me, she didn't look away. She picked me up, bought me food, clothes, and a hotel room, and checked on me every day. After three days, she took me to Second Chance in Hayward and introduced me to Bret Fagrey, who helped me enter a recovery program.

That was eight years ago. Today, I am clean, sober, and a cannabis farmer in Mendocino County, thanks to Esther's guidance and belief in me. She even made calls to help me get my first job on the farm, saying it would keep me out of trouble and give me purpose.

Esther has a huge network, but she treats everyone like family. To this day, I visit her whenever I'm back in Hayward and during Tax Season. When I'm up north and feeling anxious or overwhelmed, a quick call with Esther still helps me find peace.

She's more than a business owner, she's a healer, mentor, and a true example of a role model. I urge you to approve Pheno's HWD Esther is little but mighty and she will never support underage smokers. Esther will only educate and guide them in a very understanding and compassionate way!

Danny Camacho
341 Medford Ave
Hayward 94541
Dcamacho510@gmail.com

Antonio Costa
Castro Valley, CA

October 20, 2025

Dear Members of the Hayward City Council,

My name is Antonio Costa, and I am a student and baseball player at Chabot College. I was born and raised in Hayward and Castro Valley, and I am proud to see local leaders and business owners working to make our community stronger.

I personally do not smoke cannabis, but I have friends who do, and I always encourage them to buy safe, tested, and locally regulated products. I support the relocation of Phenos to Foothill Boulevard because it represents responsible and community-minded business practices that help educate and protect consumers.

I have known Esther Lopez for several years. She holds yearly financial workshops that I attend to learn about money management and preparing for my future. She has helped me complete my FAFSA applications every year—free of charge. She often tells me, “When you start working full time, then you can afford to pay.” That’s the kind of person Esther is—giving, selfless, and truly invested in the success of young people in Hayward. She sees potential in her community and does everything she can to lift others up.

I fully support Esther and her team at Phenos Hayward. I believe she will continue to make a positive impact and create a safe, responsible, and community-focused cannabis space in our city.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Antonio Costa
Chabot College Student & Baseball Player

Joey Ruiz
27412 Tampa Ave
Hayward, CA
October 08, 2025

Hayward City Council
777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541

Subject: Strong Support for Esther and Bert – Phenos

Dear Council Members,

I've had the pleasure of working alongside Esther for more than five years. During that time, she has helped me and my business partners navigate the METRC system to ensure full compliance with state regulations. Esther is not only highly knowledgeable in cannabis operations, but she has also dedicated countless hours assisting Oakland Equity Applicants in developing and sustaining their businesses.

Her commitment to giving back and her genuine passion for helping others truly set her apart. Esther consistently puts people before herself, working to uplift the community through education, mentorship, and opportunity.

Any community that chooses to oppose the efforts of Esther and Bert's team would be making a significant mistake. These two are powerful, experienced leaders in the cannabis industry whose work creates positive change, community growth, and safer operations wherever they go. With the support of their extensive network, they have the potential to bring lasting benefits to Hayward and beyond.

I strongly urge you to take a stand against unwarranted opposition and support this project for the greater good of our city and its residents.

Sincerely,
Joey Ruiz

Phenos Hayward

taxtender@outlo.../Letter Of Suppo...



ansel addams <justin8166@gmail.com>
To: taxtender@outlook.com

Sep 29 at 9:16 AM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Justin Pebelier. I am part owner of Suite U LLC. A future cannabis distribution business based in Oakland, CA.

I have known Esther Lopez for over ten years. I worked for her at a previous family run business in Oakland, called Frosty Flowers. We provided care and service to folks during the pandemic lockdown in the early 2020's.

I am writing in support of the new storefront business location at 21463 Foothill Blvd. Suite A Hayward, CA 94541. A previous Walgreens store.

I believe this business is in a wonderful location. Within walking distance of much of downtown Hayward, the Centennial Hall area stores and adjacent homes and businesses. It has great parking, on a street that has been built to support the traffic and people.

Esther was a wonderful boss, manager, and friend. She was a great example to follow for me and an inspiration during those stressful times of the early 2020's.

It will do the people of the Foothill neighborhoods good to have a safe space to shop, run by such open, caring people. The nearby businesses should also benefit from the added attention and foot traffic, as other longstanding businesses seem to be struggling during these trying economic times.

Sincerely,

Justin Pebelier
42 Cornwall Way
San Leandro, Ca. 94577
(510)719-1051

Letter of Support – Phenos of Hayward Cannabis Club (Former Walgreens Site)

To Whom It May Concern,

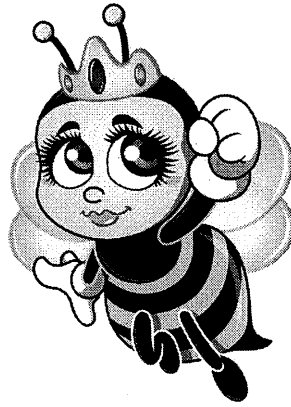
My name is Cristian Palafox, and my address is 1006 Searsport Circle, Antioch, California. I have known Esther Lopez for nearly six years, and I have seen her consistent dedication to supporting the community with honesty and professionalism.

In the past, I have driven to Modesto PCF to purchase product, and more recently, I have gone to Flavors of Antioch, another site Esther's team manages. I also come to Hayward regularly for my taxes and other financial matters with Esther. With the opening of Phenos of Hayward Cannabis Club, I will definitely be a customer here as well, because I know it will be a safe, well-run location under her leadership.

On a personal level, Esther has helped me grow professionally—supporting me in getting plumbing jobs and guiding me into the plumbers union. Her mentorship and encouragement have made a lasting impact on my career and stability, and I know she brings that same commitment to every project she leads.

I believe this project will be a benefit to the city, bringing both economic value and a safe environment for the community.

Sincerely,
Cristian Palafox
1006 Searsport Circle
Antioch, CA



Letter of Support

Date: 9-30-2025

To: Hayward City Council

My name is CRYSTAL MORENO and I live/work at SAN LEANDRO, KAYSER PERMANENT

I have known Esther Lopez for 20+ years. She has helped me with TAX PREPARATION, FILING FOR A LOAN. SHE HAS HELPED SUPPORT ME THROUGH PERSONAL PROBLEMS, NURSING SCHOOL, MY NURSING CAREER + THROUGH A DIVORCE. SHE HAS ALWAYS SERVED AS A GREAT ROLE MODEL FOR ME + MY SON. (buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

ESTHER LOPEZ HAS DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO BEING A RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY-ORIENTED BUSINESS. THE BUSINESS WILL GENERATE TAX REVENUE FOR THE CITY. A LEGAL REGULATED CLUB HELPS MOVE CANNABIS SALES OUT OF THE ILLICIT MARKET. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS BUSINESS WILL OPERATE IN A WAY THAT RESPECTS + ENHANCES OUR COMMUNITY. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO APPROVE THEIR APPLICATION + SUPPORT THIS POSITIVE STEP FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Respectfully,

Signature: Crystal Moreno

Printed Name: CRYSTAL MORENO

Address: 2131 W. 133RD AVE. SAN LEANDRO, CA 94577

Phone/Email: 510-351-7524

crystalmoreno.2272@gmail.com

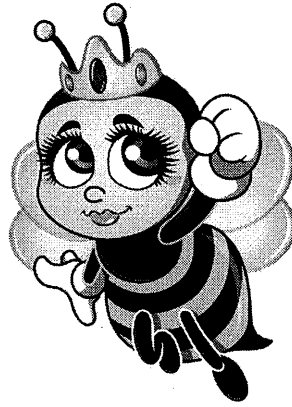


Hello,

My name is Ruben Alvarez I live at 446 Lexington Ave Hayward Ca, I have been a Hayward resident for 35 years. I known Gyp for 20 years years and have nothing great things to say about her, she's one of the most hard working, loyal and honest person I've ever met. She's helped me through out my life with any complicated opsticals that I've needed help with. She always there when you need her and for that I am very greatful and lucky to know such a great individual.

I think the city of Hayward is lucky to have such a great person in there city attempting to open a buisness. I believe this is a perfect site for this project, for one it has safe parking for customers, it is a great locaction because you will get customers from not only Hayward but from our neighboring city's, that are near by. I love the close freeway access. I believe this site will bring in wonderful revenue to out beautiful city.

Best regards
Ruben Alvarez



Letter of Support

Date: October 20, 2025

Dear Members of the Council,

My name is Karen Stathis. I'm a resident of San Ramon and recently retired after 38 years with PG&E. I'm writing today to express my enthusiastic support for Phenos of Hayward and the proposed new club location at the former Walgreens site on Foothill Boulevard and Grove Way.

I've had the pleasure of knowing Esther Lopez for over 25 years. We first met playing softball, and I quickly came to realize she wasn't just a teammate she was (and still is) a pillar of the Hayward community. Over the years, Esther has helped me in countless ways from preparing my taxes to guiding me through the home-buying process. But even more than that, I've seen her consistently show up for others, whether it's through community service or simply being someone people can rely on.

Esther is a rockstar truly one of the smartest, kindest, and most driven people I know. She brings compassion, loyalty, and integrity to everything she does. She doesn't just care about this community; she works every day to uplift it even when no one is watching. That's the kind of person she is.

I wholeheartedly believe that Phenos of Hayward and its new location will be a valuable asset to the city. This business will:

- Create local jobs and stimulate economic activity in a well-known and currently vacant location.
- Offer a safe, welcoming, and well-managed space for community members.
- Reflect Esther's values of inclusion, service, and excellence ensuring it becomes a positive part of Hayward's fabric.

- Revitalize a space that has long needed a new purpose, contributing to neighborhood improvement and vibrancy.

Hayward deserves committed local leaders who put community first and that's exactly what you'll get with Esther Lopez and Phenos. I urge the City Council to support this project and allow Esther and her team to continue building something great for the people of Hayward.

Sincerely,

Karen Stathis

San Ramon Resident

PG&E Retiree

510 755-5162

James Henry
Green Space Holdings
1830 Embarcadero Suite 104
Oakland CA 94606

October 09, 2025

Hayward City Council
777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541

Subject: Compliance & METRC Workshop

Dear Council Members,

I first met Esther several years ago while attending one of her compliance and METRC training workshops for Oakland Equity Applicants. She led the session with patience, clarity, and compassion—helping small operators like me understand how to stay compliant with California's strict cannabis tracking and reporting requirements.

Although my business ultimately did not survive due to limited funding and personal challenges, Esther's guidance gave me an opportunity to learn, grow, and operate responsibly while I could. Her passion for educating and mentoring others—especially those from equity backgrounds—sets her apart as a true leader in this industry.

Even after my business closed, Esther stayed in touch to offer encouragement. Her heart is genuinely for the people, not just the business.

Please consider the value of having someone like Esther operating in Hayward—someone who uses her experience to uplift others through knowledge, compliance, and compassion.

Sincerely,

James Henry

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to share how much I respect and appreciate Ester Lopez, and the positive impact she's had on both my life and her community. I had the privilege of working with Ester at The Distro, where her leadership, integrity, and compassion stood out in everything she did. She's not just a business owner; she's a true community builder.

Ester leads with heart. She treats everyone with fairness and respect, creating a welcoming environment where people feel heard, supported, and valued. She's deeply committed to educating others — whether it's about community issues, local products, or opportunities for growth — and she always takes the time to share her knowledge and connect people with resources that can truly help them.

I'm excited about her plans to open a new location closer to Oakland, closer to where I live, and I fully intend to work with her again when that happens. It's not just about employment — it's about being part of something meaningful, working alongside someone who leads with vision, compassion, and genuine love for her community.

Ester has made a lasting difference in so many people's lives, mine included. I'm grateful for the chance to have worked with her and to continue supporting her mission as she expands her work in the community.

With appreciation,

Corleone Williams
corleonewilliams5@gmail.com

From:
Lori Arabit
Thackery Avenue
Hayward, CA 94544

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Lori Arabit, and I am writing this letter in strong support of Esther Lopez and her proposed business, Phenos of Hayward.

I've known Esther for about ten years. I first met her at the business center Tennyson RD—I had walked in looking for help, and she was the only person who acknowledged me. Even though she was busy with clients, she got up to assist me when no one else did. That moment meant a lot to me, especially because I am disabled and often stereotyped because of my appearance.

I have battled illness and addiction in my life, including a struggle with meth addiction. Through those challenges, Esther has always treated me with kindness and respect. She is a compassionate person who truly cares about people's well-being.

I am on a fixed income and use cannabis to help with my appetite and pain. I am now at risk of losing my leg, and I cannot drive — I rely on my family to help pick up safe, tested cannabis products. It's frightening to know that illegal cannabis can be laced with fentanyl, and that's why safe access matters so much to me and to others in similar situations.

I know that Esther will operate a safe, affordable, and community-minded dispensary. She has always shown care and respect for seniors, veterans, and those on limited income. I trust that she will continue that same compassion through Phenos of Hayward, offering fair prices and programs to help people who truly need access to safe products.

Please support Esther Lopez and Phenos of Hayward. She is exactly the kind of responsible, caring business owner that Hayward needs.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Arabit". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lori" being more prominent and the last name "Arabit" following in a similar style.

From:
Vanessa Feder
Star Tulip Street
Manteca, CA 94536
510-980-8131

Dear City Council Members,

My name is Vanessa Feder, and although I now live in Manteca, I was born and raised in Hayward. I am writing this letter in strong support of my aunty, Esther Lopez, and her business, Phenos of Hayward.

Esther is more than just my aunt — she is my role model. I have never felt more proud of her than when she told our family that she was opening a cannabis business. Our entire family was proud, because we know how hard she has worked and how deeply she cares about her community.

I am 30 years old and a mother of three. Ever since I was a teenager, Esther made it a point to educate me about cannabis and responsibility. She always told me, "Never take a gummy, brownie, or cookie from anyone," and explained how dangerous and unpredictable that could be. She used humor to get the message across, but it stuck with me — her goal was always to keep me and my cousins safe and aware.

I never saw my aunt smoke or bring cannabis around us. She always carried herself with responsibility and respect. She has guided so many people in our family, and I know she brings that same compassion and leadership to her businesses.

I truly urge the Hayward City Council and government officials to approve Esther and Bert's request to relocate and open Phenos of Hayward. Esther and Bert will create a safe, welcoming, and educational environment that reflects their character — honest, loyal, and dedicated to serving the community.

Sincerely,

Vanessa V. Feder

Giulia Maramonte Bodas

2424 Bradford Ave. Hayward

Giulia510.Gm@gmail.com

50-396-8381

Dear Council Member, City Council

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Phenos Location on Foothill and Grove in Hayward. As a resident of Hayward living with degenerative disc disease, access to safe and effective medicinal cannabis has been essential to my health and daily functioning.

Before discovering cannabis, I was prescribed various opioid medications to manage chronic pain. These medications left me unable to fully function and significantly impacted my quality of life. Since turning to cannabis, I have been able to manage my symptoms in a way that supports both my physical comfort and overall well-being—with none of the debilitating side effects I experienced from opioids.

The proposed expansion of this cannabis facility would not only benefit patients like myself by offering a broader range of therapeutic options, but it also demonstrates a commitment to our community's health and safety. A larger, well-regulated space enables access to a comprehensive selection of medicinal products and provides education and support for responsible use.

I urge the council to recognize the vital role that legal access to cannabis plays for those of us managing chronic health conditions. Approving this expansion means supporting compassionate care, economic growth, and safe access to medicine for many in our community.

Thank you for your time and support

Giulia 11/5/2025

Dominique Pangeline
Pensacola Way
Hayward, CA 94544

Date: October 29, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a lifelong Hayward resident and proud Brenkwitz High School graduate. I've lived in the same home my entire life and have known Esther for decades. We all grew up in the same neighborhood. As adults, many of us went our separate ways, but Gyppie has always remained close and deeply connected to our community.

I remember when she began working at the Walgreens shopping center's business center back around 1999 — we used to pay our phone bills there. Later, she started preparing taxes. My family, along with many others in the neighborhood, quickly came to trust her. It was a no-brainer to give her a chance. She's a wizard with numbers — creative, yet always compliant.

Before meeting Esther, I used to pay large fees to prepare my taxes and still ended up owing more in April. Through her services, she's educated people like me to avoid paying thousands unnecessarily by helping us understand how to plan better.

I fully support the relocation of Phenos of Hayward to Foothill Boulevard. I believe Esther will continue to be a positive force and an even bigger impact on our community. Please give her the opportunity to prove it.

Sincerely,

Dominique Pangeline
Hayward, CA
510*415*0395

Letter of Support

Justin Lewis
412 Collection St
Modesto, CA 95356

October 1, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

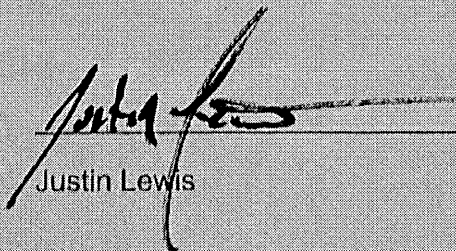
I am writing this letter in full support of **Ester Lopez's new shop location**. I have personally worked with Ester for the past eight years, during which she has consistently prepared my taxes with professionalism, accuracy, and care. Beyond tax preparation, Ester has also provided me with valuable real estate and lending consultations, always ensuring that I receive fair, clear, and dependable guidance.

Ester Lopez is a highly professional individual who takes pride in offering fine-tuned financial assistance across a wide range of services. Her dedication to her clients and her community is evident in the quality of her work and the trust she has built with those she serves.

I believe Ester's new location will be an asset to the community. The area will benefit from her presence, as her business will help clean up and improve the surroundings, while also creating a safer and more welcoming environment. The new location's ample parking and central accessibility will make it much easier for clients like myself to visit and continue benefiting from her services.

For these reasons, I wholeheartedly support Ester Lopez's new shop location and have every confidence that it will serve the community well.

Sincerely,



Justin Lewis



October 4, 2025

To whom this may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Esther Lopez and her business Aunt Honey's.

I have known Esther for 30 plus years, she has filed my taxes, she has been my realtor, and I was also involved in the lighting design, and sales of her lighting equipment on her previous location on B St.

Shortly after our design and sale I was informed by Esther that the location was not going to happen due to a large rent increase unfortunately.

I believe Esther and her business is a staple in the Hayward, she is hard working and dedicated to succeeding. Her community service record is amazing as well with numerous out reach fundraisers and giveaways most recently a backpack and sock giveaway for back to school and under privileged families.

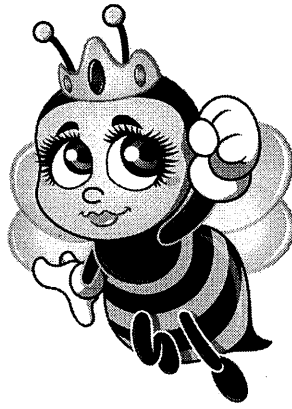
The current proposed location I feel will be a great fit for her and it would be a benefit to the city to approve it.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Catone

3245 Dublin Blvd #229

Dublin CA 94568



Letter of Support

Date: 9/30/2025

To: Hayward City Council


My name is Paula Banwart and I live/work at San Lorenzo CA.

I have known Esther Lopez for 18 years. She has helped me with all of my finances while being a publisher and business owner. Esther has been a true professional & life coach while helping me achieve my business goals.
(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

I know that this business will help continue to cultivate community in the east bay while Esther's dynamic creative work ethics will help so many families grow and maintain care through her efforts.

Respectfully,

Signature: 

Printed Name: Paula Banwart

Address: 15911 Via del Sol (94580)

Phone/Email: 510.736.8317, paulaann.calles@gmail.com

Letter of Support – Phenos of Hayward Cannabis Club (Former Walgreens Site)

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Cristian Palafox, and my address is 1006 Searsport Circle, Antioch, California. I have known Esther Lopez for nearly six years, and I have seen her consistent dedication to supporting the community with honesty and professionalism.

In the past, I have driven to Modesto PCF to purchase product, and more recently, I have gone to Flavors of Antioch, another site Esther's team manages. I also come to Hayward regularly for my taxes and other financial matters with Esther. With the opening of Phenos of Hayward Cannabis Club, I will definitely be a customer here as well, because I know it will be a safe, well-run location under her leadership.

On a personal level, Esther has helped me grow professionally—supporting me in getting plumbing jobs and guiding me into the plumbers union. Her mentorship and encouragement have made a lasting impact on my career and stability, and I know she brings that same commitment to every project she leads.

I believe this project will be a benefit to the city, bringing both economic value and a safe environment for the community.

Sincerely,
Cristian Palafox
1006 Searsport Circle
Antioch, CA

October 17, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great respect that I write this letter in support of Ester Lopez, whose integrity, community involvement, and strong business ethic have made a remarkable and growing impact in the community.

Ester consistently demonstrates a deep commitment to service. She dedicates her time and expertise to helping community members understand complex issues—whether they relate to local concerns, or emerging products. Her approach is always thoughtful, informed, and grounded in a genuine desire to empower others through service.

Beyond education, she provides resources willingly and without hesitation. She connects individuals and organizations with resources, opportunities, and information that promote growth and well-being. Her actions reflect not only professionalism but also compassion and a sense of shared responsibility for the success of those around her.

Ester's business ethic is equally commendable. She operates with honesty, fairness, and transparency in every interaction. Her decisions are guided by principle and purpose, always balancing ambition with integrity. She is deeply rooted in the community—both personally and professionally—and her work reflects her belief that business and community development go hand in hand.

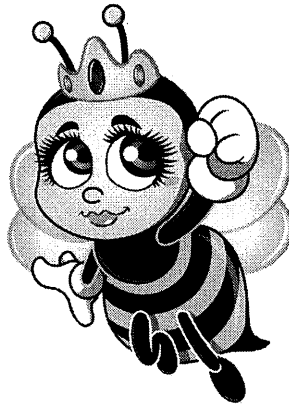
I have great confidence in Ester's character and her ongoing contributions to her shared community. She is my model of ethical leadership, civic engagement, and integrity.

Sincerely,

Josephina Williams

510-746-6788

jo.josephinaw@gmail.com



Letter of Support

Date: 9-30-2025

To: Hayward City Council

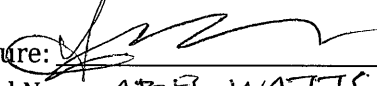
My name is ABEL WATTS and I live/work at KAISER PERMANENTE
SAN LEANOR

I have known Esther Lopez for 2 years. She has helped me with
PREPARING MY TAXES. I WORK AT KAISER HOSPITAL + I
OVERHEARD HER PHONE CONVERSATION + I COULD TELL SHE WAS A
PEOPLE PERSON. I HAD A QUESTION + SHE WAS ABLE TO HELP ME
(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.). + I FOUND HER TO BE VERY
KNOWLEDGABLE + HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH HER EVER SINCE.

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on
Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

I FULLY SUPPORT THIS BUSINESS BECAUSE I TAKE TOPICALS.
I USED TO GO TO GARDEN + EDEN BUT THE PARKING IS
HORRIBLE + IT FEELS UNSAFE. I NOW ORDER TOPICALS ONLINE.
I WILL BE SUPPORTING THE NEW LOCATION TO EDUCATE
MYSELF ON OTHER PRODUCTS THAT CAN HELP WITH MY PAIN.

Respectfully,

Signature: 

Printed Name: ABEL WATTS

Address: 2723 ANITA ST STOCKTON, CA 95205

Phone/Email: 209-300-4082

To whom it may concern

My name: Laurie Tarango

52A Lewelling Blvd.

San Lorenzo ca,94580

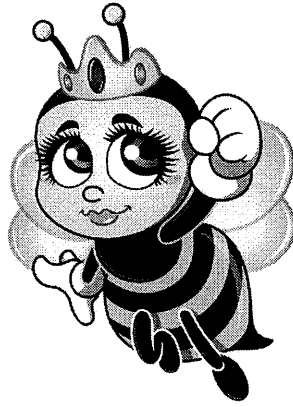
I am Esther's Tia/Aunt

I believe from her last hearing that I attended she showed you all on the city council that she is a woman of integrity. This project is not just a quick way to make money. It's a business opportunity and a win for her and the community. She has put in a lot of work and thought about making sure this will be a successfully run business if given the opportunity once again. This project would also bring some job opportunities to the community. I hope that she is not being judged on her prior project. We all know that the shutdown due to covid had a lot to do with not moving forward on the first site the planning committee voted in her favor. She is the same person that stood in front of the city council a few years back. She is still a woman with integrity, strong business ethics and very much still involved in her community. Everything that was asked of Esther in the prior site she agreed to do. She was asked to paint, add flowers beds, put a parking lot gate and a few other upgrades to make that site look presentable for the neighborhood. She is still very involved in her community. She hosts food drives, socks and glove drives as well as toy drives every year. She is very well known in her community. Some people just need one person to believe in them and give them one chance! And that person is Esther Lopez. You took believed in her once before. Now let her show you again what she is capable of. She will not disappoint the committee!

Let me share a little bit about my niece Esther. As a young woman she could have made a lot of the wrong decisions that would have changed her life today. But she chose not to be a statistic. I am sure there were a lot of people, including family, that were uncertain if she would make it. I am sure that only made her work that much harder to prove them all wrong. Was it an easy road to get where she is today, absolutely not! She put the work in. I am sure at times she felt like quitting, but she didn't. She worked hard to get to where she is today to be able to help those who were not so fortunate. She owns 2 businesses today and is very successful. She knew at a very young age what she wanted her life to look like as a successful adult. I could share more of her story, but it's not my story to tell, Its hers.

What I can tell you is that I was one of those family members. I am so glad that she proved us all wrong!

Today I am one proud Tia!!



Letter of Support

Date: 10-13-25

To: Hayward City Council

My name is Nakita Baca and I live/work at 24746 Soto Road Hayward, CA

I have known Esther Lopez for 7 years. She has helped me with
tax preparation and business advice

(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

Bringing stable income to the community in a rapidly growing industry. This also benefits community members by providing different kinds of employment opportunities.

Respectfully,

Signature: Nakita Baca

Printed Name: Nakita Baca

Address: 24746 Soto Road Hayward, CA 94544

Phone/Email: (510) 688-7276

October 4, 2025

To whom this may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of Esther Lopez and her business Aunt Honey's.

I have known Esther for 40 plus years, and am a close family friend.

I was saddened to hear about her previous location on B St. unable to open due to unfortunate circumstances with a massive rent increase, that kept her from proceeding with location.

the Current proposed location I feel would be a great benefit with ample parking, safe location, and the customers can move in and out quickly and efficiently causing no traffic congestion to nearby streets or neighborhoods.

I believe Esther and her business are a staple in the Hayward area, she is hard working and dedicated to succeeding and giving back. Her community service record is amazing as well with numerous out reach fundraisers and giveaways, most recently a backpack and sock giveaway for back to school and under privileged families.

In Closing I am asking that the city approve the new location.

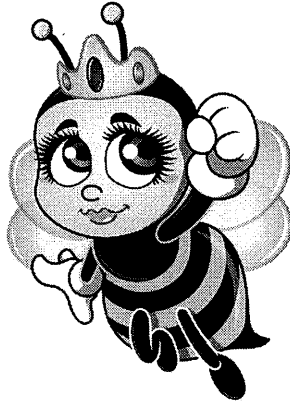
Sincerely yours,

Esther Catone

3416 Del Rio Circle

San Leandro CA 94578

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Esther Catone". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed address.



Letter of Support

Date: 10/01/2025

To: Hayward City Council

My name is Devin Silva and I live/work at 31988 Kennet St Hayward, CA 94544

I have known Esther Lopez for 10 years. She has helped me with

Tax preparation and community work

(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

convenient, safe location and medical
medicine.

Respectfully,

Signature: Devin Silva

Printed Name: Devin Silva

Address: 31988 Kennet St

Phone/Email: Devin91@gmail.com

November 2, 2025

Hayward Council,

My name is Phillip Bodas, and I am a Hayward resident and licensed commercial driver. While I am unable to use cannabis due to strict regulations in my profession, I am often the one who purchases it on behalf of my wife, who relies on it for medical reasons and can't always drive herself.

Over the years, I've experienced firsthand how difficult it is to access the existing cannabis dispensaries in Hayward. The parking is often limited or poorly located, making every visit a challenge—especially for someone who may have only a short window between work and home responsibilities. These accessibility issues create unnecessary stress and inconvenience, and in some cases, make it feel unsafe or unwelcoming.

The proposed Phenos location would offer much-needed relief. Its larger, more open facility design and accessible parking would significantly improve the experience for people like me—those who are helping loved ones access their medicine, even if we cannot use it ourselves.

I strongly support this expansion, not just for my wife's benefit, but for the many members of this community who rely on a caregiver or family member for assistance. A facility that is easier to access and safer to navigate is a win for the whole community.

Thank you for considering this important improvement and for your attention to the needs of Hayward residents.

Phil Bodas-PJSR510@gmail.com
510-955-7165
Hayward

Alyssa Pieters
2424 Bradford Ave Hayward
510-507-1489- October 31,2025

Dear Council Members,

My name is Alyssa Pieters, and I am writing in support of Gyp and the proposed expansion of Phenos Hayward. I have worked with Gyp for the past several years as my tax preparer, and during that time, she has proven herself to be someone who goes far beyond the expectations of her profession.

When I decided to start my own business, I was overwhelmed and unsure of how to begin. Even during her busiest time of year tax season, Gyp took the time to walk me through the entire process of getting my business license in order. She made sure every step was clear, walked me through the required paperwork, and offered guidance that set me up for success from the very start.

What impressed me most was her genuine care and commitment to helping new business owners build strong foundations. Her support wasn't rushed or transactional—it was thoughtful, informative, and incredibly empowering.

I believe that Gyp brings this same level of integrity, compassion, and professionalism to the cannabis community. An expanded facility led by someone so deeply invested in her clients' success and well-being would be a tremendous asset to Hayward.

Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting this project and the positive impact it will bring to the community having Gyp as a respected Multi Business owner for the city of Hayward.

Sincerely

Alyssa Pieters

Dear Council,

My name is Emma Bodas, and as a 21-year-old Hayward resident, I am writing in support of the proposed expansion of Phenos Hayward. As someone who is newly exploring cannabis for its wellness benefits, having access to a safe, welcoming, and accessible dispensary is key to feeling comfortable and informed.

Unfortunately, the current cannabis locations in Hayward do not offer an environment in which I feel safe visiting alone. Parking is limited, often located in areas that feel isolated or crowded, and it makes the simple act of visiting a dispensary feel stressful. As a younger woman, this has discouraged me from seeking the information and access I need to make responsible and confident choices with cannabis.

The proposed facility, however, offers much more accessible and secure experience. With ample, convenient parking and a layout that feels safe and easy to navigate, it would be a significant improvement for people like me—those who want to learn, shop, and ask questions without feeling unsafe or overwhelmed.

Supporting the expansion of this facility means giving younger consumers, women, and first-time users a better option in Hayward. It reflects care for public safety, thoughtful planning, and the needs of the growing number of community members who are turning to cannabis for health and wellness.

Thank you,
Emma Bodas
559 Blossom Way, Hayward
510-362-8929-November 1, 2025

11/04/2025

City Council of Hayward

Dear Members of the City Council,

My name is **Shyann Pangelinan**, and I am a resident of Hayward. I have known Ester Lopez for over 10 years through her work as my tax preparer and professional relationship within the local business community.

During the time I have known Ms. Lopez, I have consistently been impressed by their professionalism, integrity, and genuine commitment to our community. Their business practices reflect strong ethics, transparency, and a sincere desire to contribute positively to the local economy.

I strongly support the approval of the Conditional Use Permit for the proposed new site at the former Walgreens building on Foothill and Grove. This project will not only revitalize a vacant property but also create opportunities for community growth and improved access to valuable services.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Shyann Pangelinan

510-493-3839

Shyannpangelinan@yahoo.com

October 28, 2025
City Council of Hayward
777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541

From:
Anthony Washington
14996 Lark Street
San Leandro, CA 94578

Dear City Council Members,

I have known Esther for over 30 years—she is my role model. There was a time when I was living on the streets for three to four years, struggling with addiction. At an early age, I went into rehab, and Esther was there to help my mom with placement and even financial support. Today, I'm proud to say I am clean and sober from heavy drugs.

I still occasionally smoke or eat an edible to help me sleep, but I'm now an entrepreneur—a painter and handyman. Esther continues to support me by reaching out whenever she has a client who needs work done on a home. She has referred me to many other realtors and helped me build my business. She gave me a chance when others would not.

If anyone deserves this opportunity, it's Esther. She has worked for years and endured so many challenges with the previous location on B Street—I know because I helped clean that building out myself. Please approve the new Phenos of Hayward location; it will not only benefit the community but also help people like me stay employed and continue moving forward.

Respectfully,
Anthony Washington
Painter / Handyman
San Leandro, CA

City Council,

My name is Leo Hernandez, and I am writing to express my support for Phenos hayward on Foothill in Hayward. I appreciate the convenience and accessibility of the locations, which make it easy to access a wide variety of products without having to travel far or deal with heavy Bay Area traffic.

I enjoy having multiple options and selections available within a short distance, which allows me to find the products that best meet my needs. The proximity of these locations ensures that customers can explore different selections safely, efficiently, and conveniently.

I strongly support this business and the proposed expansion, as it benefits customers by providing both diversity in products and accessible locations within our community.

Sincerely,

Leo Hernandez- (510)-910-0658

559 Blossom Way Hayward

October 29,2025

November 4, 2025

Lena Brodie
Meekland Ave
Hayward, CA 94541

To Whom It May Concern,

I have known Esther “Gyp” Lopez for many years. She is a true boss — a woman who leads with heart, humility, and strength. She never seeks recognition for all the work she does for the community, for local families, and for the unhoused population.

I’ve personally witnessed her compassion and courage in action. She interacts with people that many others would never approach, always treating everyone with respect and dignity. For over twenty years, she operated from the same office on Tennyson Road — right in a parking lot next to a liquor store and surrounded by mental health homes. Despite the environment, she created a safe, welcoming space for everyone.

There were many times we felt uneasy walking in, but Gyp would always come outside to greet us and walk us in herself. She’s earned the respect of everyone in that area — even from those who spend their days drinking or using drugs nearby. If she can handle that environment with grace and professionalism, she can handle anything that comes her way.

I fully support Esther and stand behind her vision to open her new business location. The community needs more people like her — strong, compassionate, and unafraid to make a difference.

Sincerely,

Lena Brodie

November 4, 2025
Anita Rangel
Meekland Ave
Hayward, CA 94541
(510) 589-3821

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in full support of my cousin, Gyp Lopez. She is truly the queen bee of our family — the one who keeps everyone connected and grounded.

When we were kids, we grew up just a few doors down from each other. My dad is her mom's brother, and together they come from a large family of seven siblings. We've all seen Gyp's journey firsthand. As a teenager, she was determined, strong-willed, and independent. She made her own path and refused to be defined by anyone else's expectations.

Gyp didn't grow up with a silver spoon or financial help from her parents. Her family struggled; her parents were on food stamps and relied on relatives like my dad for support. But Gyp's story is one of perseverance. She turned every challenge into motivation. We always tell her she should write a book because her journey is an inspiration to us all.

The community voted for a cannabis program, and the city staff opened the doors for applicants. Gyp earned her place — she was voted number one in the process. Companies like Garden of Eden or Cookies may have their opinions, but my cousin has fought hard and has done everything by the book. She has followed every rule, dotted every "i," and crossed every "t."

I not only support her as family, but I also trust her as my tax advisor and financial consultant. She is resilient, determined, and the definition of a self-made woman. I am proud of her and look forward to seeing her project come to life.

With my full support,
Sincerely,
Anita Rangel
(510) 589-3821

Letter of support

taxtender@outlo.../Inbox



Angelo Lopez <lopezaj72@gmail.com>
To: taxtender@outlook.com

Nov 12 at 3:12 PM

Letter of Support

November 11, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Angelo Lopez, and I was born at St. Rose Hospital and raised in Hayward, California. I am writing this letter in full support of my mother, Esther "Gypsy" Lopez, and her efforts to relocate and expand her cannabis business in Hayward

As her only child, I've seen firsthand the sacrifices she's made and the dedication she's shown to building everything from the ground up. My mom was a single, struggling mother who worked nonstop to create a better life for me and her, everything I know and do it because of her I would not be successful today if it wasn't for my mom. Discipline, respect, and integrity is all from my mom everything is from her she's all I got she is my rock.

In 2017, we operated a licensed cannabis distribution and delivery company together. My mom wanted me to learn the business properly — from METRC compliance and labeling to purchasing, testing, and packaging. She partnered with Equity Applicants and Mammoth Distribution (also known as Heavy Hitters) to store their products at our facility. Together, we managed over 20 delivery drivers and handled every part of the operation with precision and professionalism. We grew everyday by networking with every big company you can think of and establishing relationships with them still till this day.

We did very minimal advertising we knew everything on our shelves was top tier and the product spoke for itself. Completely compliment we ran and very organized delivery service and distribution service everyone loved.

My mom also believed in structure she pushed me to join the union Local 483 that taught me lots of life lessons and structure my life that I still use until this day. I work hard everyday 6-7 days a week, 10-12hrs still today because my mom taught me not to be lazy but to go and get it, she's the hardest working woman I know and the most respected person I know in the community and will always be for the community even before her self sometimes because she is for the people.

My passion has always been art and using my creativity freedom of my mind, the lessons I learned from local 483 and my mom I still use everyday. I eventually moved back to Hawaii to pursue my dreams and start my own business instilling everything she showed me in my 31 years of life starting with leadership and faith all came from watching my mom.

My mom has been working on this for a very long time, she has been serving the community for many decades, giving back to the children and the elderly she's always put the people first. I'm more than proud to call her my mother, my mom, my mamma. I will support her until the end of time. This is a big opportunity not just for her but for the community.

Respectfully,

Angelo Lopez

Hawaii

Sent from my iPhone

TCI Properties
Investment Real Estate Brokers

Partners:
Dennis Danielian Corp.
Jesse Goldstein Inc.

To Whom It May Concern:

The size of the former Walgreens located at 21463 Foothill Boulevard represents what is commonly referred to as an "in-between" space which is to say that it is too large for small retailers and too small for large retailers. This reality coupled with the dual impact of e-commerce and security concerns manifested in a very difficult quest for a new tenant to back fill the Walgreens vacancy.

The rise of online retail, particularly through Amazon and similar platforms, has significantly reduced demand for traditional retail spaces nationwide. Within Hayward the CVS has remained vacant for quite some time, with no viable tenants emerging. This trend is not isolated, national retailers such as Rite Aid filed bankruptcy, Walgreens, Dollar General, Advance Auto Parts, Family Dollar, Boot Barn, and LL Flooring to name a few have announced plans to reduce their brick-and-mortar locations across the country. The resulting oversupply has placed additional strain on the local commercial real estate market. Case in point we vetted numerous small retailers and food markets but were never comfortable with their ability to meet the obligations of a long-term lease.

While we were initially cautious about leasing the site for cannabis-related use and in fact had turned down offers from other dispensary tenants, our extensive due diligence determined that Phenos the prospective tenant had a strong record of successful operations in many other cities. Based on their track record, we believed their presence would significantly improve the foot traffic of the property and their additional security would help control some of the issues Walgreens was experiencing with the homeless and vagrants loitering around the center which negatively affected other tenants in the center.

It is our understanding that the tenant has already invested more than \$100,000 in advanced video surveillance and security systems, which has noticeably reduced loitering and improved safety in and around the property.

Should this tenant not receive approval, it is our professional opinion that the site will likely remain vacant for an additional extended period.

Given these realities it would seem to be in the best interest of the City of Hayward to approve the Phenos CUP. Approval would have significant economic and community benefit to the City and would ensure that the property does not sit empty causing blight on one of the heaviest trafficked thoroughfares in Hayward.

Sincerely,

Dennis Danielian

Jesse Goldstein

Dear Council Members and Commissioners,

My name is Tracie Chambers, and I have lived in Hayward for many years. I am writing to express my full and genuine support for Esther J. Lopez and her proposal to bring a well-managed, community-focused business to the former Walgreens site at Foothill and Grove.

I have known Esther for over 40 years, and in all that time, she has consistently been someone who puts others before herself. Long before she applied for a license to operate a dispensary, Esther was already serving our community helping families, supporting local programs, and giving her time and resources to those in need. Helping others isn't something she does for recognition or profit; it's simply who she is.

As a realtor, Esther has personally helped me and my family achieve our dream of homeownership. She even reduced her own fees to make it affordable for us, putting our needs above her own. She has a special heart for working with the elderly and treats everyone with patience, dignity, and respect. I've also had the privilege of helping her with several of her outreach efforts for the homeless and with local churches. Whenever someone needs help, Esther shows up no questions asked. She is truly one of the most genuine and selfless people I've ever known.

Esther's compassion extends beyond her personal relationships. When my daughter was just two years old, she battled cancer and was left with multiple disabilities because of chemotherapy. Years later, Esther gave my daughter a job at her tax office treating her with fairness, kindness, and respect. That opportunity helped my daughter build confidence, gain experience, and believe in herself again. I will always be grateful to Esther for that.

My husband runs a nonprofit boxing gym in Union City that focuses on keeping youth off the streets and helping them find positive direction. It's a safe space for young men from low-income neighborhoods where gang activity is common. Thanks to this program, many have turned their lives around going on to college, trades, and successful careers. Esther has been one of the gym's biggest supporters, donating her time and resources to help keep this program going. Her generosity and commitment to uplifting others never go unnoticed.

Unlike many people who pursue business purely for financial gain, Esther's motivation is rooted in service. She wants to invest back into Hayward, create opportunities, and continue making a positive difference. She's honest, hardworking, and does everything the right way with transparency and integrity.

If anyone deserves the opportunity to operate a dispensary in Hayward, it's Esther Lopez. She has proven time and again that her heart and actions are in the right place. I ask you please take all of this into consideration. Those who truly know her and what she stands for would have no doubt that she will continue to make Hayward a better place.

Thank you for your time and for considering this letter of support. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly with any questions.

With heartfelt sincerity,
Tracie Chambers
29123 Delgado Rd
Hayward, CA 94541 ---- (510) 468-9034

November 10, 2025



Letter of Support

Date: 10/01/2025

To: Hayward City Council

My name is Daisy Velasquez and I live/work at 3241 Santa Isabella Ct, Union City CA 94587

I have known Esther Lopez for 4 years. She has helped me with
Tax preparation, Financial services,

(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

Safe professional business that would
be great for neighbor hood.

Respectfully,

Signature: [Signature]

Printed Name: Daisy Velasquez

Address: 3241 Santa Isabella Ct, Union City CA

Phone/Email: 9541587@gmail.com 94587

10/3/2025

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you in support of the new business "Phenos of Hayward". Because I live in such a very small town with minimal options for purchasing cannabis I regularly make trips down to Hayward to see Ms. Lopez and a new location in Hayward would be wonderful. This is a much needed addition that will bring great business to the area. Please consider the positive impacts that it could have.

Thank you,
Kim Ledwick

Dear Council Members of Hayward,

November 9, 2025

My name is Johnny Gusman, and I'm the owner and coach at Brick House Boxing Gym in Union City. I'm writing this letter to show my full support for Esther Lopez and her proposed business at the old Walgreens on Foothill and Grove in Hayward. Esther has been supporting my gym and our mission for the past six years. My gym is a nonprofit that helps keep kids off the streets in a low-income neighborhood and gives them a safe place to go instead of getting caught up in gangs or trouble. Esther has always been there to help — donating, spreading the word, and showing up for the youth. She truly cares about people and puts her heart into everything she does.

I've seen how Esther interacts with people in the community. She's always helping, offering resources, and connecting others to opportunities. She doesn't do things for herself — she does them to lift up everyone around her. For her, being successful means helping others succeed too. Esther Lopez is one of a kind. She does things the right way — honest, professional, and by the books. I have no doubt she would run a legitimate business that gives back to the community just like she always has. If anyone deserves the chance to operate a dispensary in Hayward, it's her.

Please don't pass up this opportunity to support someone who has already proven her dedication to the people of Hayward and the surrounding communities. Esther will make a real, positive difference.

Thank you for your time,

Hayward Born and raised

Johnny Gusman

Brick House Boxing Gym

10th Street, Union City, CA

(510) 432-9094

Letter of Support – DeJeane “Nae” Reyna

November 9, 2025

San Lorenzo, CA

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is DeJeane “Nae” Reyna, and I am a long-time resident of San Lorenzo. I first met Esther “Gyp” Lopez years ago at a Downtown Hayward Street Fair, where she was giving away free backpacks and doing face painting for families and children. That experience left a lasting impression on me—her kindness, her energy, and her genuine care for the community stood out immediately.

I became the guardian of my younger sister after our mother passed away. I was only 20 years old at the time, and my sister was still a minor. Today she is 18 years old, a high school graduate, and preparing to attend Chabot College. I’ve spent the past several years guiding her, keeping her focused on her goals, and teaching her to stay away from drugs and alcohol while surrounding herself with positive people.

As for myself, I use cannabis for relaxation and balance. I’m not against my sister using it as an adult, but I’ve always taught her that there’s a time and place for everything. I see responsible use and education—like what Gyp promotes through her work—as an important part of changing old stigmas.

I fully support the Phenos relocation project and believe it will bring responsible access, education, and community investment to our area. I look forward to seeing the new store open and continuing to support Gyp’s mission.

Sincerely,

DeJeane “Nae” Reyna

☎ (510) 826-6684

November 8,2025

Dear Hayward Council Members,

My name is Margie Bennett, and I am writing this letter to show my full support for Esther Lopez and her project at the old Walgreens on Foothill and Grove. I've known Esther for many years, and she has always been one of the sweetest and most caring people I know. She has helped me many times when I needed it the most. After I lost my husband and my only son was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, I had to sell my house and deal with a lot of things I didn't understand. Esther helped me through it all. She explained everything about selling my house and my taxes in a way I could understand. She was very patient with me, kind, and respectful. She never made me feel embarrassed or rushed. Even after she sold me the house years ago, she would still stop by to check on me and my mom before she passed away. She treated my mom with such respect and kindness. Esther always listens and tries to help whenever she hears that someone is having a hard time. If she can't fix the problem herself, she finds someone or something that can help. Esther has a big heart, and she's always helping people in our community. She's the type of person who does things for others because she truly cares. I believe she will do great things with her new business and use it to help more people in Hayward.

Please consider this letter as my strong support for Esther Lopez. She is honest, kind, and hardworking. Hayward needs more people like her who really care about others.

Thank you for your time.

Margie Bennett

29123 Delgado Rd

Hayward, CA 94541

(510) 566-4850

Letter of Support – Edward A. Quilice

November 9, 2025

Hayward, CA

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Edward A. Quilice, and I am a 25-year-old Hayward resident and caregiver for my father, who suffers from dementia. I currently work full-time at Tesla, and outside of work my priority is caring for my dad and keeping him comfortable. Cannabis has been essential in his daily care—helping with his appetite, rest, and overall comfort. Without it, he would not be as stable or at ease. My main goal in life is to keep my best friend—my father—healthy and comfortable.

I am in full support of Gyp's (Esther Lopez's) relocation of Phenos to the former Walgreens site in Hayward. I believe this new location will better serve patients like my father by offering more services for medical consumers, a wider selection of organic options, and fairer price points for low-income patients.

I've known Gyp for as long as I can remember—our families go back generations. My mom and her mom have been friends since junior high, and they're now both 74 years old. Gyp has always been genuine, hardworking, and community-driven. She has earned the trust of so many people through years of dedication to Hayward and surrounding areas.

I fully support this project and look forward to celebrating Phenos' grand opening soon.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Quilice

☎ (510) 331-8650

The Clue

taxtender@outlo.../Letter Of Suppo...



Alvin Cordero <alvincordero243@gmail.com>

To: taxtender@outlook.com

Sep 28 at 5:07 PM

My name is Alvin Cordero, and I am retired 66 years old.

I was introduced to Esther Lopez by an associate of mine, 10 years ago.

I do odd jobs occasionally for instance yard work and painting for her.

I use cannabis for sleep & pain as opposed to pills.

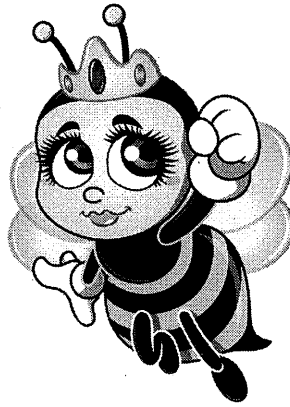
I also go to PCF in Modesto, CA for my products

Esther Lopez is a respectful, caring person. Her integrity speaks for itself.

She contributes to her community and I believe The Clue would be an asset to the community of Hayward, CA.

Sincerely,

Alvin G. Cordero



Letter of Support

Date: 10/14/25

To: Hayward City Council

My name is FRANCISCA JAVIERO and I live work at 29363 Dixon St #2 Hayward CA

I have known Esther Lopez for 5 years. She has helped me with
Tax PREPARATION

(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

By helping those who use it medically with my
STRESS

Respectfully,

Signature: Francisca Javiero

Printed Name: FRANCISCA JAVIERO

Address: 29363 Dixon St #2

Phone/Email: 510-209-3768



Letter of Support

Date: _____

To: Hayward City Council

My name is Michael Baca and I live/work at 34800 11th St Union city

I have known Esther Lopez for 5 years. She has helped me with tax preparation & faxing

(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

Respectfully,

Signature: Michael Baca
Printed Name: MICHAEL BACA
Address: 34800 11th St UC
Phone/Email: 510-491-6461



Letter of Support

Date: Mar. 1st 2025

To: Hayward City Council

My name is Farina Jones and I live/work at Modesto

I have known Esther Lopez for 30 years. She has helped me with taxes
(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove bescal

I fully support Esther opening Phenos in Hayward Ca. She is a
people person. She's always willing to help anyone out. The community
is blessed to have Esther. For decades Esther has helped me and
my family with our taxes we are very thankful for her.

I believe this business will benefit the community by:

If you give her a chance her actions will show everything.
She is always positive and a go getter in the community.

I fully support Esther Lopez!

Sincerely,

Signature: 

Printed Name: Farina Jones

Address: 2532 Chandon Circle Modesto 95385

Phone/Email: (510) 930-8993

Isabel Ramirez
Retired HPD Jailer • Veteran
Hayward, CA 94541
+1 (510) 862-6525
November 5, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the Hayward City Council,

My name is Isabel Ramirez, and I proudly served as a jailer with the Hayward Police Department for many years before retiring. I am also a U.S. veteran and a lifelong Hayward resident who cares deeply about the safety, growth, and unity of our city.

I am writing this letter in strong support of Esther Lopez and her efforts to open her cannabis business at the new Foothill & Grove location. I have known Esther for many years, both personally and through her work in the community. She is a woman of integrity, compassion, and persistence—someone who has built bridges with people from every walk of life.

During my years working in law enforcement, I witnessed firsthand how positive leadership and genuine outreach can change the tone of a neighborhood. Esther represents that kind of leadership. She gives people hope, opportunity, and dignity. She invests her own time and resources into local families, youth, and those who often get overlooked.

I believe that giving her the chance to open this business will not only strengthen our community but will also bring responsible entrepreneurship, jobs, and safety to the area. Esther is exactly the kind of business owner Hayward should support—one who respects the city, its people, and its future.

Thank you for your time and for considering my perspective as a retired HPD jailer and veteran who has seen both the challenges and the potential within our city. I respectfully urge you to approve Esther Lopez's project and allow her to continue being a positive force in Hayward.

With respect and gratitude,

Isabel Ramirez
Retired HPD Jailer | U.S. Veteran
Hayward, CA 94541
+1 (510) 862-6525

November 5, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in full support of Gyp and her efforts to open Phenos at the old Walgreens.

I am a young man living with anxiety and agoraphobia—a rare condition that makes it difficult for me to be around crowds or unfamiliar environments. Over the years, doctors have prescribed me many different medications, but most of them made my condition worse. Eventually, my doctor recommended that I try cannabis as a natural alternative.

This organic medicine has significantly improved my health and quality of life. I look forward to having a safe and welcoming place like Phenos to shop and continue my treatment journey.

Sincerely,

Alvino Jacobo Jr
398 O'harron Drive
Hayward, CA 94544

Letter of Support for Phenos of Hayward

To the Honorable City Council Members,

My name is Lucy Lugo, and I have been close friends with Esther's mother since junior high school. I am 73 years young, and I have known Esther (Gyppie) since she was a baby. I have had the joy of watching her grow into a strong, successful woman who has completely transformed her life and built a reputation for helping others in our community.

Many people never expected her to become the accomplished entrepreneur she is today. She turned her challenges into motivation and has spent years dedicating herself to meaningful work that benefits Hayward and beyond.

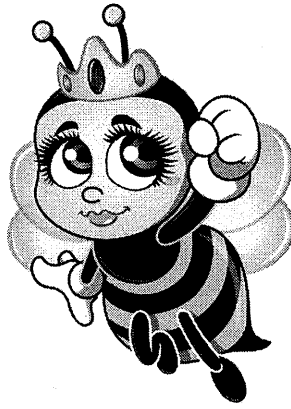
On a personal note, my husband suffers from dementia. Cannabis has been a great help to him—especially with his appetite and sleep disorder. I also use cannabis to help me sleep and to unwind. Having a safe, well-managed, and affordable place to purchase it would make a real difference for people like us.

I fully support Esther (Gyppie) and her effort to open Phenos of Hayward. She has worked for years toward this goal and now has the right team to bring it to success. I strongly urge the council to approve Phenos and allow her the opportunity to show that this business will be a positive addition to our community.

If Esther doesn't follow through on her promises, then hold her accountable—but please, give her the chance to prove that a responsible, community-focused cannabis business can serve the people of Hayward well.

With respect and support,
Lucy Lugo
Hayward Resident

October 29, 2025



Letter of Support

Date: 10/02/2025

To: Hayward City Council

My name is Michael Brewer and I live/work at 520 Whipple RD, Union City CA 94587

I have known Esther Lopez for 10 years. She has helped me with
Tax preparation, Buying a home and Financial advice.

(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

This will be a great convenient location
for the community with medical
services.

Respectfully,

Signature: Michael Brewer

Printed Name: Michael Brewer

Address: 520 Whipple RD Union City CA 94587

Phone/Email: MichaelBrewer103@yahoo.com



Letter of Support

Date: 10/01/2025

To: Hayward City Council

My name is Anjelic Shaw and I live/work at 335 4th St Richmond CA 94530

I have known Esther Lopez for 6 years. She has helped me with
Tax preparation, Knowledge of Buying a Home

(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

medical medicine in a close location
that is safe with parking

Respectfully,

Signature: Anjelic Shaw

Printed Name: Anjelic Shaw

Address: 335 4th St Richmond CA, 94530

Phone/Email: anjelic44@yahoo.com



Date: Oct. 14th, '25

Letter of Support

To: Hayward City Council

My name is Eugene Tapia and I live/work at 34800 # 153 11th str.
Union City

I have known Esther Lopez for _____ years. She has helped me with

Community Work

(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

This Organization Gives back to the
community over and over about and beyond.
Always Blessing those in need.

Respectfully,

Signature: Eugene Tapia

Printed Name: Eugene Tapia

Address: 34800 11th str. Union City

Phone/Email: 279-786-4835



Letter of Support

Date: 09/30/2025

To: Hayward City Council

My name is Aledandra Loza and I live/work at 479 Westchester St
Hayward CA 94541

I have known Esther Lopez for 8 years. She has helped me with

Tax services, Community work.

(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

This will be great for our community.
Safe Neighbor hood.

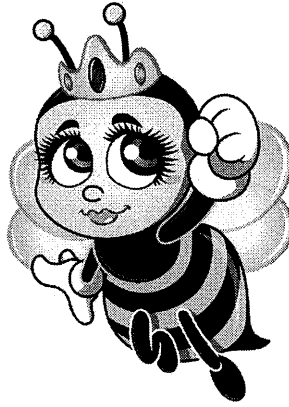
Respectfully,

Signature: Alex Loza

Printed Name: Aledandra Loza

Address: 479 Westchester St Hayward CA 94541

Phone/Email: alejara8979@hotmail.com



Letter of Support

Date: 10/13/25

To: Hayward City Council

My name is NEICIA BACA and I live/work at 24746 Soto Rd.

I have known Esther Lopez for 5 years. She has helped me with my credit score. help me organized my bills & file taxes.

(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

creating better access with parking & less traffic flow on Foothill.

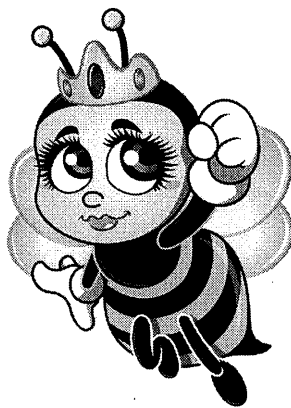
Respectfully,

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Printed Name: NEICIA BACA

Address: _____

Phone/Email: 925-474-7679



Letter of Support

Date: 9.30.2025

To: Hayward City Council

My name is CRYSTAL MORENO and I live/work at Kaiser Permanente
SAN LEANDRO

I have known Esther Lopez for 20+ years. She has helped me with
TAX PREPARATION + WORK + DIVORCE.

MOVE HOME, GIVES ADVICE, SUPPORTED ME THROUGH DIVORCE
+ RUNNING SCHOOL + MY NURSING CAREER
(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on
Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

ESTHER LOPEZ HAS DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO BEING A RESPONSIBLE
COMMUNITY-ORIENTED BUSINESS. THE BUSINESS WILL GENERATE TAX
REVENUE FOR THE CITY. A LEGAL REGULATED CUPP HELPS MOVE
CANNABIS SALES OUT OF THE ILLEGAL MARKET. I AM CONFIDENT THAT
AMITY HUCKY'S WILL OPERATE IN A WAY THAT RESPECTS AND ENHANCES
OUR COMMUNITY. I ENCOURAGE YOU TO APPROVE THEIR APPLICATION
+ SUPPORT THIS POSITIVE STEP FOR OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Respectfully,

Signature: C. Moreno
Printed Name: CRYSTAL MORENO
Address: 2131 W. 133RD AVE.
Phone/Email: 510.351.7584

Crystalmoreno.2272@gmail.com

City of Hayward,

I'm writing to share my full and sincere support for Esther Lopez and her proposed project at the old Walgreens on Foothill and Grove. My name is Jesse Gusman, and I'm proud to say I was born and raised right here in Hayward a graduate of Cherryland Elementary, Bret Harte Middle School, and Hayward High.

I've known Esther for about ten years through my sister, and during that time she's become one of the most genuine, giving people I've ever met. When my family was looking to buy a home in Concord about five years ago, Esther was our realtor. She guided us through the process with patience and kindness — and even lowered her commission so we could have extra money for our down payment. Seeing our happiness meant more to her than the profit, and that really says everything about who she is. Beyond her work, Esther is always giving back. I've joined her at warm-coat and sock drives, and I've seen her cook and serve food for the homeless alongside my sister. She's out there helping people not for attention, but because it's just in her nature. Esther is someone who cares deeply about the well-being of others. If she's given the opportunity to run a dispensary in Hayward, I know she'll operate it responsibly, honestly, and with the same community-minded heart she brings to everything else. She believes in giving back and using her success to lift others up. The way people look at dispensaries can and should change — and with someone like Esther leading the way, it will. She sees this not just as a business, but as another way to help people and contribute positively to the city she loves.

Please take all of this into consideration when making your decision. Esther Lopez truly represents what community meanscompassion, integrity, and action.

**With respect and appreciation,
Jesse Gusman
5510 Connecticut Dr ,Concord, CA 94521
(925) 209-0228**

Council,

Where can I even start? Esther Lopez has done so many good things for me over the years that it's hard to put into words. She has been there for me during some of the hardest times in my life including when I was diagnosed with cancer.

When I was sick and struggling to stay on top of things, Esther helped me set up my bill payments so nothing would fall behind. She even told me that if I ever needed money, she'd be there to help and she meant it. That kind of care is rare these days.

Esther has also sold me a home and continues to help guide me with my taxes every year. She's honest, professional, and incredibly patient. What stands out most is that I'm not family or a lifelong friend just someone she's helped yet she treats me with the same kindness and attention as if I were.

She listens with sincerity, gives her full attention, and you can feel that she truly cares about people. Esther is a good person through and through. She wants the best for everyone around her and does everything with a genuine heart.

I completely support Esther Lopez in her efforts and everything she's trying to do for the Hayward community. She has my full trust and respect and she deserves yours, too.

With appreciation,
Adrienne Beeman

11/12/2025

Selina Margain
635 Dowling Blvd. Apt. 11
San Leandro, CA 94577
510.926.7342
Selinamargain1@yahoo.com

Dear members of the Hayward City Council,

I am writing to you in support of Esther Lopez, with hopes of approval for her new business venture and presenting employment opportunities to the City of Hayward. A business owner such as Esther will be a valuable addition to your community, she has a clear vision for work ethics and perseverance. Esther is my cousin and my past employer; she has personally assisted me in more than many ways in both life and work. I am forever grateful for her existence and accountability.

Her work/life balance is impeccable, and she maintains it very well. She is the most dedicated and motivated person I know in business and her integrity, character and persistence has taken forth her success. Esther deserves this opportunity, and I truly hope this happens for her because I personally know how hard she works.

The establishment will not only increase foot traffic for other local businesses but will also provide a positive outlook on unity within the neighborhood. I believe Esther Lopez will become a positive cornerstone for your city, contributing to the economic vitality in Hayward. I urge you to approve her request, so that this beneficial establishment can become a reality for her.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Selina Margain

Hayward Council,

Hello my name is Esiason Rodriguez, and I was born and raised in **Hayward**. I'm writing this letter to share my full support for Esther Lopez and everything she does for our community.

Esther is an amazing person. My dad suffers from several serious medical issues and lives with constant pain. He was taking a lot of prescription medications that made him sick and caused ulcers. Esther recommended that he try a THC and CBD gummy at night to help with the pain and improve his sleep. Ever since he started using this natural, plant-based alternative, he's been resting better and feeling more comfortable. I can't thank Esther enough for caring enough to help us find a safer option.

Beyond that, I've seen Esther all over the community for years at Hayward events handing out backpacks, school supplies, and even shoes for kids. She always gives from the heart and never does it for attention or recognition. Helping people just comes naturally to her, and she's been that way as long as I've known her.

Esther is honest, level-headed, and ethical in everything she does. She's not in business just to make money she's in it to make a difference. That's why I fully support her and any business decision she makes, especially her effort to open a responsible, community-focused dispensary in Hayward.

This city needs more people and businesses like Esther's people who truly care, give back, and help others live better lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With appreciation,
Esiason Rodriguez (510) 731-7798
Proud Hayward Resident

11/11/25

Nov. 13, 2025

Marcella James PG 1

To: City of Hayward, CA

Re: Esther Lopez/Cannabis Dispensary

Hayward has encouraged women entrepreneurs to bring their dreams of being business owners to our city. In 2017, Esther Lopez applied for a permit to open a Cannabis dispensary in Hayward, CA which would bring a significant amount of revenue to our city. Hayward granted that permit in 2017. Ms. Lopez secured a location on B Street between Foothill Blvd. and Second Street. Hayward approved that location. Unfortunately, the Landlord of that building attempted to gouge Ms. Lopez by raising the rent and had the audacity to expect a percentage of the profits because of the type of business it is. Ms. Lopez decided to seek an alternative location. None of the other locations were obtainable nor were they suitable due to reasons such as not being in the areas designated by the City of Hayward, too close to schools, excessive rental costs (due to attempted gouging) and so on.

During the process of attempting to establish and open her dispensary, Ms. Lopez complied with every requirement to satisfy the city. Some of those requirements were Traffic Surveys, Security, and Permits. She also hired consultants to assist in the process to comply with local requirements to be able to open. She did this at her own expense.

Here we are in the latter part of 2025, yet Ms. Lopez hasn't been able to open the dispensary due to the reasons stated above. During this lengthy process, Ms. Lopez has partnered with a well-established dispensary, Phenos. With the help of that team, she has been able to secure the location of the former Walgreen's located at 21463 Foothill Blvd. However, there are the concerns of the community that have halted her progress to become the first woman owned and operated cannabis dispensary in Hayward.

Let's address some of those concerns.

1. The Children: Ms. Lopez takes the safety and well-being of our youth very seriously. There will be no obvious signage indicating that this location is a cannabis dispensary. Security guards will be located outside to keep foot traffic moving from the premises. No underage people can enter the building unless they have a legitimate prescription from a medical provider. It is up to us as parents to be honest and educate our children about the many uses and benefits of marijuana especially the medicinal use, not just the recreational use. Not everyone is a recreational pothead.
2. Homeless/Transient: Our homeless residents will most likely not patronize the dispensary for the simple fact that they do not want to be tracked. To enter the dispensary, consumers will be required to present California photo identification. Also, due to the security systems already set in place, there has already been a decline in loitering at that location.
3. Crime: Ms. Lopez has established a relationship with local law enforcement and has implemented a high-quality security team that would be on the premises as well as a high-quality security monitoring system to deter criminal activity.
4. The Line to get in: People will not be lined up on the sidewalk to get inside. This location is big enough that upon entering the building, patrons will go to a reception area to have their I.D scanned. After that they will go directly inside where an "airport security" type line is formed. After purchase clients leave the building and parking lot. Security will enforce this.
5. Parking and Traffic: These concerns will most likely be like what Walgreen's had except that the dispensary patrons won't be spending a

long amount of time at the dispensary. It's, go inside, get your product and leave.

One last thing, we're apparently supposed to be a society of D.E.I, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Where is all of that when it comes to Ms. Lopez and her quest to open her shop in Hayward?

In closing I strongly urge Hayward to truly give her that opportunity.

Respectfully,

Marcella James

Hayward Resident/Lifelong

To the City of Hayward ,

My name is Jada Gusman, and I want to share how much Esther Lopez has helped me and what she means to me. Esther gave me my first job. She didn't look at my disabilities and assumed I couldn't do it. I am deaf, hard of hearing, and legally blind. When I was little, I had cancer and went through a lot of chemotherapy. The chemo saved my life but damaged my hearing and my vision, which sometimes makes it hard for me to understand certain things.

Even with all that, Esther believed in me. She never treated me differently than anyone else. She gave me a job doing clerical work in her tax office and trusted me with many other tasks. She always showed patience and kindness and made sure I felt included in everything. When she opened her new tax office in Hayward, she included me in the grand opening and even let me cut the ribbon with her, the Hayward mayor, and other city council members. It made me feel so proud and special, something I'll never forget.

If I could say one thing about Esther, it's that she is fair, ethical, and caring. She doesn't judge people by their disabilities, their income, or the color of their skin. She treats everyone with the same respect and dignity. I will always be grateful to Esther for giving me a chance, believing in me, and helping me gain confidence. She even took the time to pick me up from Chabot College so I could get to work at her office. That's the kind of person she is always going out of her way to help others.

Esther Lopez is an amazing person, and I fully support her in everything she does. Hayward is lucky to have someone like her who truly cares about people and equality.

Thank you for listening,

Jada Gusman

November 10,2025

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Maria Rangel, and I am writing this letter in support of my cousin, Gyp Lopez, and her continued efforts in developing and operating her cannabis business within the City of Hayward.

As her cousin, I've had the privilege of knowing Gyp throughout my whole life, and I've personally seen the incredible impact she has had not only on me, but on our family and community. She has always been a mentor to me sharing her business knowledge, life experience, and encouragement whenever it is needed. Whether it was helping me navigate career decisions or simply being a voice of wisdom during difficult times, she has always made sure I felt supported and capable.

One thing that makes Gyp stand out is the way she carries her values into her work. She operates with integrity, compassion, and a deep sense of responsibility for the people around her. She ensures that no one feels left behind whether it's offering guidance, sharing resources, or taking the time to educate others about opportunities to grow and succeed. Her leadership has always been rooted in making sure everyone is taken care of, and that's a quality you don't see every day.

I believe her cannabis business reflects that same spirit one focused on knowledge, community involvement, and creating safe, inclusive access for people who may benefit from cannabis for medical or wellness reasons. I have no doubt that her continued involvement in industry and within the local community will have a lasting and positive impact.

Thank you,

Maria Rangel-(510)200-2186

16932 Meekland Ave Hayward



Letter of Support

Date: 10/2/25

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Brian and I live/work at VACAVILLE

I have known Esther Lopez for 5+ years. She has helped me with MUTUAL FRIENDS
(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I support the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because WE NEED IT.

I believe this business will benefit the community by GIVING THOSE WHO NEED CANNABIS THERAPY
ANOTHER LOCATION TO STOP AT.

Sincerely,

Signature: Brian Hennings

Printed Name: BRIAN HENNINGS

Address: 954 COUNTRYWOOD CIRCLE, VACAVILLE

Phone/Email: 707-330-7962 ~ tsibrian@comcast.net



Sandy Maciel <magickferrydust@aol.com>
To: Esther Lopez <taxtender@yahoo.com>

Oct 6 at 4:22 PM

To whom it may concern,
I have known Esther Lopez for many years, she is a great friend of the family, my tax preparer, and a great person.
Anything Esther does is with integrity, and full of heart.
I support her in anything she does.
Thank you for your time,
Sandy Maciel

Vegan for LIFE

Life happens from you, not to you.

Not everyone is your friend,

The Medicine Bruja

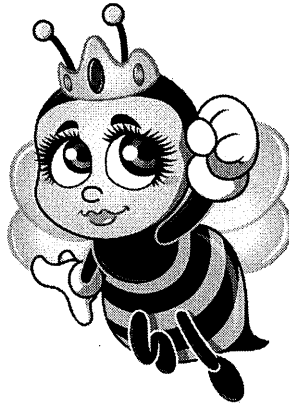
Hayward Council,

Hi there, my name is Alana Gusman, and honestly, if it were possible, they should clone Esther Lopez because the world could use more people like her. She is one of the most giving, kind, and selfless people I have ever met. I could go on for hours about everything I've seen Esther do for others in this community. She constantly puts other people before herself helping families, supporting those in need, showing up at community events, and always lending a hand wherever it's needed. I honestly don't know how she finds the time and energy to do it all while also being a realtor and running her tax business, but somehow she does. She's special. I truly believe God created Esther to help others, because it comes so naturally to her. On a personal note, I use cannabis in gummy form at night to help with my anxiety and depression. It takes the edge off, helps me sleep, and allows me to function better. I use a very low dose just enough to relax and I'm grateful that it's natural and non-addictive. Compared to the prescription medications that doctors give out, which come with a long list of side effects and can harm your organs, this is such a better, healthier option. That's why I think what Esther is doing is wonderful. She's providing people with a natural and safe alternative that truly helps. And knowing Esther, she's not in it for herself. She will take the success of her business and, just like always, use it to give back whether that means helping someone in need, sponsoring community programs, or funding local projects. That's just who she is.

Please give her a chance. You'll see that her heart and her intentions are in the right place. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Alana Gusman (Hayward resident) 11/11/25

(510)909-2969



Letter of Support

Date: 09/30/25

To: Hayward City Council

My name is Sarah Silva and I live/work at 520 Whipple Rd

Union City CA
94587

I have known Esther Lopez for 15 years. She has helped me with

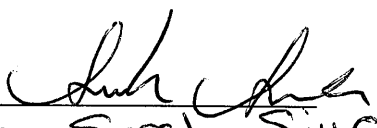
Selling and Buying home, Tax preparation

(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

Medical needs, Safe and inviting environment
Easy access to building and parking,
Disability accessible

Respectfully,

Signature: 

Printed Name: Sarah Silva

Address: 520 Whipple Rd Union City CA, 94587

Phone/Email: SarahSilva1985@yahoo.com

Claudia Booker
11330 Lochard Street
Oakland CA 94605
September 29, 2025

To the Honorable Members of the City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the new site proposal at the former Walgreens on Foothill & Grove.

I have known Esther Lopez for almost 20 years as she not only is my trusted tax preparer, but also has become a long time friend. I can speak to her integrity, professionalism, and dedication to our community. She has always conducted herself with honesty, fairness, and a genuine desire to serve others.

This new site would not only provide valuable services but also contribute to economic growth and help create a safe welcoming space to Hayward community. I believe Esther Lopez and her team are well suited to make this project a success and a benefit to the neighborhood.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,
Claudia J. Booker

October 11, 2025

Dear City Council,

I am writing this letter to wholeheartedly vouch for the character of my close friend Esther Lopez. Over the years, I have had the privilege of witnessing her unwavering commitment to our local community, and I can say without hesitation that she is one of the most trustworthy, kind, and generous individuals I know.

Esther has consistently demonstrated a deep sense of civic responsibility through her active engagement with numerous local initiatives. Whether volunteering her time at neighborhood events, mentoring youth, or organizing drives for those in need, she brings an infectious energy and genuine compassion to everything she does. Her contributions go far beyond time and effort, she has made substantial donations to a wide range of organizations, always with the goal of uplifting others and strengthening the fabric of our city.

Her generosity is matched only by her integrity. She is someone you can rely on without question—honest, thoughtful and deeply empathetic. Her presence in our community is a gift, and her impact is felt by countless individuals whose lives she has touched.

In every sense, Esther brings immense value to our city. Her leadership, compassion, and unwavering dedication make her a pillar of our community, and I am proud to call her my friend of 20+ years, also my Business Partner on many Real Estate Transactions, and My trusted Tax Accountant.

Sincerely,

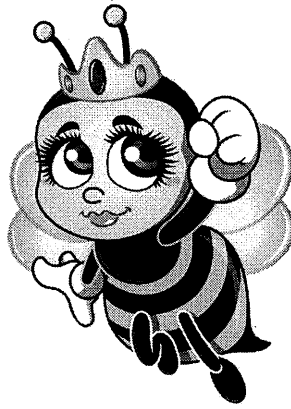
Tara Riley, Realtor

DRE#02238044

510.265.4029

eXp Realty of California

tara@jandlrealestategroup.com



Letter of Support

Date: 9/20/25

To: Hayward City Council

My name is Jaquelineen Chuck and I live/work at city of San leandro

I have known Esther Lopez for 31 years. She has helped me with
tax prep, financial literacy, investments

(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I fully support Phenos of Hayward and the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because I believe this business will benefit the community by:

job creation, local business growth
safe access + consumer education
accessibility to alternative medicine

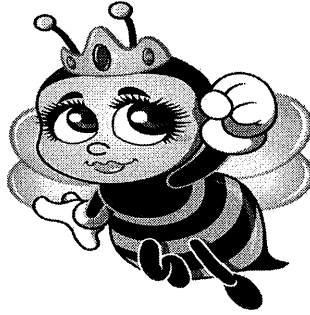
Respectfully,

Signature: Jm Oh

Printed Name: Jacquelineen Chuck

Address: 1635 JOHNSON ST. SAN LEANDRO

Phone/Email: (510) 326 6571



Letter of Support

Date: 9/29/25

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Debbie Brien and I live/work at San Leandro

I have known Esther Lopez for 5+ years. She has helped me with She employed my significant other and mutual friends have spoken highly of her for the past 10 years.
(buying a home, tax preparation, community work, etc.).

I support the new club location at the old Walgreens on Foothill & Grove because It's a great location with lots of parking.

I believe this business will benefit the community by bringing more people to that area to do more shopping.

Sincerely,

Signature: D. Brien

Printed Name: Debbie Brien

Address: 42 Cornwall Way, San Leandro

Phone/Email: debo666@gmail.com



Elias Ramirez <latinsol101@gmail.com>
To: taxtender@outlook.com

Sep 29 at 11:35 AM

My name is Elias Ramirez. I am writing this letter in support of Ms. Lopez' new business venture. What I can say by my personal experience, I've known Ms. Lopez for over 30 years. She does my taxes every year since her opening her tax office. She's very professional and honest when it comes to her helping prepare my finances. I also support her, as well as our community, on her yearly back pack give a way to the children of our community. But most importantly, she treats everyone with respect, and it shows in her character, and the integrity she stands on. It's true been a comfort in knowing her. And I whole heartedly support her, and I know our community does as well in cheering her on in support of her new business venture. We need more people in our community like Ms. Lopez. Thank you...

Letter of support

taxtender@outlo.../Letter Of Suppo...



Des Gonzalez <desgonzalez1@hotmail.com>

To: Taxtender@outlook.com <taxtender@outlook.com>

Sep 29 at 10:33 AM

Mary Gonzalez

36601 Newark blvd #1

I've know Esther Lopez for 20 years she does my taxes. She's a hard worker, reliable and trustworthy. I support her and the new location.

Thank you,

Mary Gonzalez

Sent from my iPhone

Letter of support

taxtender@outlo.../Letter Of Suppo...



Des Gonzalez <desgonzalez1@hotmail.com>

To: Taxtender@outlook.com <taxtender@outlook.com>

Sep 29 at 10:25 AM

Hi my name is Desiree Gonzalez

My address is 2400 Trellis Ln, Turlock CA 95382

I've known Esther Lopez for 10 years she does my taxes. She's a hard worker and loyal. She's always willing to help me whenever I need her. I support the new site location it's a better fit and more convenient.

Thank you,
Desiree Gonzalez

Sent from my iPhone



Erika Marmolejo <erikawithak1@icloud.com>
To: taxpender@outlook.com

Sep 29 at 9:57 AM

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed new site at the former Walgreens on Foothill & Grove. I know Esther Lopez through meeting her while she was giving back to the community at a toy drive she organized and brought to life, and I can personally attest to her integrity, dedication to our community, and high standards of business ethics.

Esther's commitment to serving others and creating positive change is evident in all she does. I believe this new site will contribute greatly to economic growth and provide a safe, welcoming space for local families. Please consider approving this project for the benefit of our entire community.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

Sincerely,

Erika Marmolejo

Sent from my iPhone



Esther Lopez <taxtender@yahoo.com>
To: Esther Lopez <taxtender@yahoo.com>

Nov 5 at 7:20 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

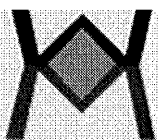
My name is Ricardo Perez, and I have had the privilege of knowing Esther for the majority of my life. She has been my trusted tax professional for the past ten years, always providing honest, reliable, and knowledgeable service.

In addition to that, I've also had the opportunity to work with her in the cannabis industry. The products she provides have helped people from all walks of life — from younger adults to seniors — and her dedication to wellness and community support is unmatched. Even during challenging times, she has continued to show up and support others and the businesses around her.

I fully support Esther and her continued efforts within the community and the cannabis industry. She is hardworking, compassionate, and driven by a genuine desire to help others. I will continue to support her in any way I can moving forward.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,
Ricardo Perez
Sent from my iPhone



Women & Men On The Way

**Board of Directors
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Executive Director

Jennifer Maness
Executive Assistant

Date: November 18, 2025

To: Hayward City Council

Re: Letter of Support
Esther Lopez
Phenos INC.

It is my pleasure to write this letter of support for Esther Lopez in her endeavor to relocate her business to the old Walgreens bldg. located at 21463 Foothill Blvd.

I am the Executive Director of a substance abuse treatment facility located in Hayward. I have worked in the field for the past 18 years and have witnessed the need for a holistic solution for chronic pain, PTSD, and anxiety. I believe cannabis can be that solution for many people and the services are a much needed in the City of Hayward.

Our program serves men and women struggling with addictions to Opiates which was over prescribed by doctors and now our communities are plagued with this crisis. We are the only residential treatment facility that serves men paroling back to the City of Hayward. As a community we must provide these solutions that meet their needs upon returning home.

Cannabis can be a solution working with other medication assisted treatments as needed. I would hope City Council would support this business as it will also bring in revenue and give back to the communities of which it serves. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Warm Regards,

Stephanie Fagrey SUDCC III-CS
Executive Director
Men and Women on the Way
Stephanie.Fagrey@WomenandMenontheWay.org



Kim Huggett <kimetic@sbcglobal.net>

To: Steve.Kowalski@hayward-ca.gov <steve.kowalski@hayward-ca.gov>

Cc: Jeremy Lochirco <jeremy.lochirco@hayward-ca.gov>,
taxtender@yahoo.com <taxtender@yahoo.com>, Lucy Lopez <lucy@hayward.org>

Nov 16 at 9:54 AM

Steve,

I was president of the Hayward Chamber of Commerce when Hayward initiated its cannabis business approach to include licensing for distribution, cultivation, laboratory, and retail. The chamber in Hayward, as well as the state chamber in Sacramento, warned about the unrealistic expectations for revenue from this industry and those predictions were borne out. As I'm sure you know, in LA County, alone, more than \$400 million in back taxes is owed by cannabis businesses as the result of over regulation, over taxation, and resentment over lack of support. My counterpart in Mendocino County told me that legalization there has caused the black market to thrive.

Hayward's initial idea was to issue 20 business licenses in the various categories, and only one of them, Hayward Station (now Cookies) had an individual who lived here who they found to be their representative. Having evaluated dozens of prospects (because most of them came to the chamber), no other cannabis-related business applicant has a Hayward connection except for that of Esther Lopez, originally proposing an enterprise known as Aunty Honeys.

As I testified before the Hayward City Council and you can affirm with Jeremy Lochirco, none of these other applicants were known to anyone in Hayward except for Esther, who runs a business center on Tennyson and a fiscal help enterprise, Top Tier Financial. She also had an extraordinary record of philanthropy here, especially to young students preparing for the school year.

The council's original intent was to encourage cannabis businesses with a Hayward connection and, so far, she has been the only local resident to step forward, with a true record of service to our city. I encourage you to do all you can to help this local investor with what she needs to fulfill the original intent of the city's cannabis ordinances to find someone locally that could bring this type of retail business to Hayward.

Sincerely,

Kim Huggett

Laurence Kim Huggett, IOM
510.701.7567

Boards of Directors:
Hayward Rotary Club
Badjao Bridge
Funabashi/Hayward Sister City
Cal State East Bay Foundation, Inc.

November 15, 2025

To City of Council,

My name is Zachary Martel, and I am writing this letter in support of Esther Lopez and her cannabis business license. I had the privilege of working with Esther before cannabis was legalized, when she operated a licensed distribution center. I was one of her first drivers and later became a manager under her leadership. From day one, Esther made it clear that her business would be built on ethics, values, and complete compliance with all laws and regulations. She personally taught me the rules surrounding cannabis distribution, the importance of safety, and the responsibility that comes with working in this industry. Her standards, structure, and expectations set the tone for our entire team. Because of her leadership, our delivery operation ran flawlessly. During COVID, we expanded to a team of 15 drivers — and that success was entirely due to the systems and culture she created. Whether Esther was physically there or not, the cadence she set guided us. Everyone knew the expectations, followed the process, and worked as a unified team because of the foundation she built. I eventually grew from a driver into a manager because she believed in me, mentored me, and gave me the tools to succeed. Esther is a strong, responsible, and knowledgeable leader who always prioritizes compliance, community, and doing things the right way. For these reasons, I fully support Esther Lopez and her cannabis business license. She is exactly the type of operator this industry needs.

Sincerely,

Zachary Martel

Ph: 510-978-9159

November 10,2025

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Armando Sipes, and I am writing this letter in support of Esther Lopez who I call Tia Gyp and the renewal/approval of her cannabis business license. I am 19 years old, and I have known Esther my entire life. My mother and Esther have been close friends for over 30 years, so Esther has always been a consistent and trusted presence in my life.

Growing up, I was always aware that Esther operated a legal marijuana business. From a young age, she made sure that I understood the difference between responsible, adult use and unsafe or underage use. She always educated me on the dos and don'ts of cannabis and emphasized that it was not something for kids or teenagers. She never encouraged me to try it and always reminded me that when I became an adult, if I ever chose to use cannabis, she would make sure I had the correct information to do so safely and responsibly.

I have always seen Esther prioritize safety, compliance, and education in everything she does within her business. She has been a positive role model in my life and someone who has shown me that cannabis, when handled legally and responsibly, can be part of a regulated and safe industry.

For these reasons, I fully support Esther and her cannabis business license. I believe she is exactly the type of responsible, community-minded operator that should be trusted to run a legal cannabis establishment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Armando Sipes

510-209-0566

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Ricardo Perez, and I have had the privilege of knowing Esther for the majority of my life. She has been my trusted tax professional for the past ten years, always providing honest, reliable, and knowledgeable service.

In addition to that, I've also had the opportunity to work with her in the cannabis industry. The products she provides have helped people from all walks of life — from younger adults to seniors — and her dedication to wellness and community support is unmatched. Even during challenging times, she has continued to show up and support others and the businesses around her.

I fully support Esther and her continued efforts within the community and the cannabis industry. She is hardworking, compassionate, and driven by a genuine desire to help others. I will continue to support her in any way I can moving forward.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

**Sincerely,
Ricardo Perez
Sent from my iPhone
November 10,2025**

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Mariah Sipe, and I am writing this letter in support of Esther Lopez who I call Tia Gyp, I have known her my entire life. I am 25 years old and recently graduated from San Francisco State University. For as long as I can remember, Tia Gyp has been a mentor, a guide, and a positive role model in my life. I openly use cannabis as part of my routine to help manage anxiety and stress, and because of Tia Gyp, I learned early on about responsible, safe, and legal cannabis use. She has always been honest and educational, making sure I understood how to make informed decisions as an adult. Beyond that, Tia Gyp has played a huge part in my personal and professional development. From a young age, she taught me how to be financially secure and how to read and understand my W-2s, manage my college loan paperwork, build healthy financial habits, and save money for my future career and adult life. She has been someone I can turn to for guidance whether I needed help emotionally, personally, academically, or professionally. I look up to Tia Gyp, not only for all she has accomplished, but for the way she genuinely cares for people and everyone around her. She is responsible, driven, compassionate, and fearless in everything she does. For that reason, I fully support her and any business endeavor she pursues, including her cannabis license.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mariah Sipe-11/10/2025-510-338-8264

Gricela Trujillo
25852 Spring Dr.
Hayward, CA 94542
Gricela.Trujillo@gmail.com
November 15, 2025

Hayward City Council
777 B Street
Hayward, CA 94541
Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my wholehearted support for Esther Lopez as she seeks to open a business in Hayward. I have had the privilege of knowing her for over ten years, and during that time, I have witnessed her integrity, dedication, and genuine care for the people around her.

She has assisted me with my taxes every year, always demonstrating honesty, professionalism, and attention to detail. These qualities reflect the kind of trustworthy and dependable person she is. She takes pride in doing things the right way.

Beyond her professional skills, Esther is deeply committed to our community. She consistently looks for ways to contribute, whether through volunteering, supporting local initiatives, or simply being a reliable neighbor. Her vision for opening a business here is not only about personal success, but also about creating opportunities, strengthening our local economy, and fostering a welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike.

I believe her character, work ethic, and long-standing ties to Hayward make her an ideal candidate to operate a business in our city. She is the type of person who will bring positive energy, fairness, and respect to every interaction, and I am confident her business will reflect those same values.

Thank you for considering her application. I strongly encourage you to support her endeavor, as I know she will be a valuable asset to Hayward's business community.
Sincerely, Gricela Trujillo

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Michael Sipes, and I am writing this letter in full support of Esther Lopez (Gyp) and her cannabis business license. I have been a close friend of Gyp's for many years, and throughout that time, she has consistently demonstrated professionalism, integrity, and genuine care for her community. I have supported Gyp's businesses over the years because I have seen firsthand the level of dedication and responsibility she brings to everything she does. She has been doing my taxes for over 20 years, and she has also served as my real estate agent. In both roles, she has always been reliable, knowledgeable, and committed to doing things the right way. Beyond our professional relationship, we are personal friends. Gyp is someone I can always go to for financial advice, guidance, and support. She is a responsible, loving, community-driven, and fearless leader who takes pride in helping others and uplifting the people around her. For these reasons, I fully support Gyp and any business endeavor she pursues, including her cannabis license. I believe she is exactly the type of responsible operator who brings positive value to the community and to the industry. Hayward would be lucky to have her as business owner.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Sipes-510-599-4204

11-16-2025

November 18,2025

To whom it may concern,

My name is Debra Martinez and I have known Esther Lopez for over 35 years. Esther has always been courageous and adventurous. She is the eldest of her siblings and has overcome many obstacles at a young age of which she's overcome and now is a successful businesswoman in her community. She has had several events such as a Backpack giveaway for children to feed the homeless, as well as other events that consist of helping the community. Esther has brought joy to many, her strength and ability to accomplish her dreams is an inspiration to a lot of people including myself.

Sincerely, Debra Martinez

510-383-6976

City Of Hayward Council Members,

My name is Jennica Bull todays date is Nov 8, 2025 and I am writing to share my support for Esther Lopez. She has been helping my family with our taxes for years and when my grandmother passed, she was the only one my family trusted to help with my grandmothers estate. Her extensive knowledge in finances and Real Estate has been invaluable to us. She was calm and compassionate through it all and made sure she communicated and educated us with best choices throughout all processes. We can never repay her for being such a huge help to our family in a very trying time. Her love for people shows in everything she puts her hands on. It's undeniable that her community is her family and I'm so lucky to be a part of that community. Hayward is lucky to have Esther. She continues to bring revenue and Jobs to the city and the community and bring the city together.

Thank You,

Jennica Bull

My phone number is (916)891-9889