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Vice Chair of the Keep Hayward  
Clean & Green Taskforce  
22716 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hayward, CA 94541

Leigha Schmidt, AICP, Senior Planner  
City of Hayward, Planning Division  
777 B Street, Hayward, CA 94541-5007

Dear Ms. Schmidt,

I'm writing to state my strenuous opposition to the Conditional Use Permit application to allow operation of a retail cannabis dispensary at 1004 B Street in Hayward. In my opinion, dispensaries belong in areas where families are less likely to walk by and adolescents are less exposed to cannabis.

As a program officer at the California Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, I'm aware of some of the public health impacts of legalizing recreational cannabis. Scientists have shown that adolescents' (10-19 years old) use of cannabis impairs brain development<sup>1</sup>. Adolescents' brains are developing at a rapid pace and the use of drugs of abuse, including cannabis, can derail healthy development leading to cognitive issues for life. The San Francisco Department of Public Health summarized the impact of dispensary location on adolescents,

*"The scientific literature examining the impacts of cannabis retailers and medical cannabis dispensaries (MCDs) is extremely limited, provides mixed findings, and focuses predominantly on MCDs. Studies examining MCD and retailer impacts have found that, similar to the impacts of alcohol and tobacco outlets, their proximity to and/or density within communities is positively associated with current cannabis use, recent cannabis use by certain adolescents groups (8th and 10th graders), lower age of cannabis use onset, cannabis use disorder hospitalizations and frequency of child physical abuse."<sup>2</sup>*

Because of the dangers of adolescent cannabis use, and the correlation between location of dispensaries and adolescent cannabis use, a cannabis dispensary in downtown Hayward is not aligned with the other family-friendly businesses in downtown such as Century Theater, High Scores, Books on B, or our new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library.

While not the focus on this Conditional Use Permit, I would like to point out that Vapor Zone and Novelty at 943 C St. also poses a public health risk to adolescents. It is located just a block from the new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library, half mile from Bret Harte Middle School, and just under a mile from Hayward High School. Given the high number of adolescents who have taken up using e-cigarettes/Juuls in the past two years, it is more critical than ever to remove e-cigarette outlets from spaces where adolescents can easily access them.

I urge the City of Hayward to decline approval of this Conditional Use Permit to allow operation of a retail cannabis dispensary at 1004 B Street in Hayward. Citizens and city officials have worked hard to move development of downtown to a more family-friendly environment inclusive of all ages and ethnicities. Introducing a dispensary would be counter to this effort.

Yours sincerely,



Ginny Delaney, Ph.D.

Hayward Resident and Vice Chair Keep Hayward Clean and Green Task Force

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/what-are-marijuanas-long-term-effects-brain> accessed on November 25, 2018

<sup>2</sup> "Cannabis Legalization in San Francisco A Health Impact Assessment" <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/opp/SFDPH-CannabisReport-ExecutiveSummary-Fall2017.pdf> accessed on November 25, 2018