From:	Teri Robnett
To:	Kilroy, Ashley R. - Mayor"s Office; dencc - City Council; Faatz, Jeanne R. - City Council Dist #2; Lopez, Paul D. - City Council Dist #3; Lehmann, Peggy A. - City Council Dist #4; Susman, Mary Beth - City Council; Brown, Charlie - City Council District #6; Nevitt, Chris - City Council Dist #7; Brooks, Albus - City Council District 8; Montero, Judy H. - City Council District #9; Robb, Jeanne - City Council Dist. #10; Herndon, Christopher J. - City Council District 11; Shepherd, Susan K. - City Council District 1; kniechatlarge
Subject:	CB-0109: Bad public policy
Date:	Monday, March 23, 2015 11:05:18 AM

Greetings Council Members and Ms. Kilroy,

I doubt you'll be surprised that Cannabis Patients Alliance is opposed to this proposed CB-0109. It is unreasonably restrictive, further limiting access to medical marijuana for patients.

We recognize that there are many large unregulated grows in and around Denver; however, unregulated does not mean illegal. I don't like those who use the "caregiver halo" to get around the laws either. It upsets me to hear about anyone taking advantage of patients. But to assume that every large caregiver is abusing the system is simply wrong.

Although contractors report that cultivation is safer now under legalization, we also recognize that there are some grows that have unsafe practices. Most, if not all, are already covered by other laws already on the books. While we need to protect public safety, we should not unnecessarily place additional restrictions simply because this is marijuana when current laws will suffice.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with you on solving these issues, but this ordinance is certainly not it.

The definition of "marijuana" in reference to such a restriction is completely unreasonable. The definition is so broad that someone could be out of compliance simply for having seeds on hand for their next crop or cut leaves in their refrigerator for juicing, none of which are a public hazard or nuisance in any way.

We've participated with Sen. Aguilar in crafting the State's caregiver bill (SB-014). When the 36-plant limit was proposed, we were able to have a conversation, bringing in patients, caregivers and doctors, about why 36 plants was too restrictive. A more reasonable limit of 99 plants was recommended and accepted, even by representatives of the industry. It's unfortunate that you were apparently unaware that this work was being done. It's even more unfortunate that we were not afforded the opportunity to have a similar conversation, or even a public hearing, where those directly affected could be heard.

The idea that a patient or caregiver can simply buy another lot is elitist and offensive. Caregivers are not allowed to make a profit, only passing along costs. This makes medicine much more affordable for patients, particularly for those whose treatment requires high volumes of product. Having to set up multiple sites will make medicine more expensive for patients who are often already economically disadvantaged. And it seems to me that it will be much more difficult for law enforcement to track more small grow operations spread across the city than several large ones.

I find it interesting that so many people who supported and voted for Amendment 64, even celebrated its passage, now want to restrict the rights of adults to cultivate at home, a key factor in the amendment. As difficult as it may be for some to accept, cultivation of marijuana

is a legal activity in Colorado and should be treated as such. The rights of a patients to grow what is medically necessary and utilize the services of a caregiver to do so has been a legal practice for nearly 15 years.

As much as the marijuana industry may claim that they can supply what patients need, the simple truth is that they can't. It's unfortunate that they, with full support of the City, have chosen to use such restrictions to benefit their own agenda with little, if any, concern for how this will affect patients whose needs go beyond gummy bears and brownies.

Ultimately, if this ordinance passes, patients will suffer.

Respectfully,
Teri

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