



April 21, 2016

Denver City Council
City and County Building
1437 Bannock Street, Rm. 451
Denver, CO 80202

E-Transmission

Dear City Council Members;

On behalf of the Housing Authority of the City and County of Denver (DHA) and the residents that we serve, I am writing to share our support for Council Bill 16-0291 (CB16-0291), in reference to capping the total number of licensed locations where marijuana cultivations and sales may be permitted in the city, adopting new procedures for issuance of retail marijuana cultivation and sales licenses, prohibiting the issuance of new medical marijuana cultivation and sales licenses, and adopting other related amendments for any additional marijuana related business in the city. And in neighborhoods already disproportionately impacted, including restricting any pending licenses from being approved in those neighborhoods.

DHA is an interested party in these proceedings because so many of our public and affordable housing properties are located in communities that already would be considered neighborhoods of undue concentration of marijuana business licenses. We applaud City Council's intent to establish a cap on the total number of marijuana business licenses in the City of Denver and the identification of highly impacted neighborhoods where no new licenses would be approved.

As you are aware, DHA has made significant investments in the transformation of former blighted public housing communities into vibrant, sustainable, healthy neighborhoods. This involves not only the redevelopment of public housing into mixed-income communities, but also the investment in community serving programs and facilities which leads to further public and private investment into the neighborhood. Our direct experience and the experience and perceptions of our residents and community partners leads us to the conclusion that a high concentration of marijuana related businesses is a detriment to further investment and hinders the transformation plans of our communities. In many locations, the concentration of retail facilities creates negative perceptions of transitioning retail corridors and the concentration of grow facilities constitutes an environmental blight on the surrounding area.

For these reasons, we support the CB16-0291, as amended on Monday, April 18, 2016, and we would support procedures that prohibit and/or limit any new or pending marijuana business licenses from being approved in all highly impacted neighborhoods.

Sincerely,
Ismael Guerrero, Executive Director
Denver Housing Authority