Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Mayor Garcetti
City of Los Angeles
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Joe Buscaino
Councilmember 15th District
638 S. Beacon Street, Rm 552
San Pedro, CA 90731

Re: Support of Stone Age Farmacy Retail Social Equity Application
   @ the intersection of W Battery St and N Gaffey St.

Dear Mayor Garcetti & Councilmember Buscaino,

San Pedro Neighborhood Council has reviewed the proposed operator and location for a retail cannabis establishment at the intersection of W Battery St and N Gaffey St. and hereby offer our support.

The neighborhood of San Pedro has limited access for either Medical or Recreational cannabis and the proposed site would be an asset to the local participating community. No operation would take place at the location until fully licensed, compliant with both city and state licensing bodies.

Jeffery Leitch, the social equity applicant, has partnered with Stone Age Farmacy to bring back a safe and professional retail experience to the San Pedro community. Prior to 2014, Jeffery worked within the San Pedro area as a cannabis retailer. During this time, he was proactive with the Central Neighborhood Council to ensure quality cannabis was accessible to the community in a safe, professional environment, while also conducting business in a manner that adhered to the council’s concerns. In 2012, Jeffery was facing closure due to a city-wide ban on medical cannabis clinics, and the CSPNC submitted a letter of opposition in support. He closed operations in 2014 when Los Angeles passed measure D making his location non-compliant. He is uniquely positioned to best represent San Pedro’s values and concerns regarding cannabis. To this day, he still receives calls of support from patients in the community.
In the event of a successful social equity application with the city of Los Angeles, Stone Age would maintain a positive impact on the San Pedro area through community outreach and local employment.

Community Outreach:
- Direct Community Outreach: Participate in the local Neighborhood Councils’ meetings; establish ourselves as a presence, and open the lines of communication.
- Direct Community Action: Support the Neighborhood Council’s agenda; take direct action. For example, the central neighbored council asked Jeffery to extend his security hours, patrolling patterns, and expand surveillance cameras to include residential units behind the retail location. He did; gaining immediate gratitude from local apartment dwellers.
- Open Direct Communication Channels: Provide a means for the community to reach a meaningful ear within the company. A designated community liaison would be made available. Their personal cell phone and email posted for all retail visitors to see upon exiting.
- Open Direct Communication with local Government: Introduce ourselves to the city council. Make our presence known with Councilman Buscaino’s office, providing personal contact information of the community liaison.
- Support Local Law enforcement: Be an extra set of ears and eyes for the community. Given our security staff and constant video surveillance, we are in a position to be watchful in the immediate area.
- Non-Profit Work: Identify and support local non-profits. We pride ourselves on being able to contribute to local non-profits with an emphasis on organizations benefitting the youth and promoting drug abuse education.
- Charity Drives: Identify local community supported charity drives. All Stone Age locations hold food drives for Thanksgiving and toy drives during Christmas (initiating customer participation through free customer gifts), donating the collected items to local charities while annually donating to the local Sheriff’s department.
Local Employment:
By creating good jobs for local residents and being respective of neighboring businesses we can further aid the community.

Hiring Practices:
• Our hiring criteria is non-onerous; we do not require previous experience or college degree and hold no discrimination against people with cannabis related offenses.
• Strong training programs. Providing an employee with a career path and upward mobility.
• Promote from within. Many of our advanced positions are held by employees that started at entry level positions.
• Support minorities as well as women. Our companies are 95% minority and/or woman employed.

Employment Benefits:
• Wellness benefits including health, vision, and dental to employees.
• Limited financial assistance.
• Employee Profit sharing pool.
• Employee product discounts.

Sincerely,