

September 20th, 2022

RE: Urgency Ordinance No. 1699(22)

To whom it may concern:

To enact a moratorium on legal Cannabis businesses in Lompoc would be a blatant win for illegal grow operations that continue to defy compliance standards and sell their product to unverified individuals. Operators who are eager to follow the letter of the law are your companions in the fight against illegal operations, not your enemy. I understand that the administrative infrastructure of the city may be feeling overwhelmed with the inundation of applications and interest, however, limiting the growth of a burgeoning industry that will directly benefit the fiscal capacity of Lompoc would be a mistake. Additionally, on the state level, the DCC is already struggling to manage the acreage cap policy in an efficient manner and the burden is passed directly onto smaller Cannabis operations.

Per the City of Lompoc Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, Taxable Sales totaled less than \$530,000.00. Why would you place a cap on your revenue capacity and stunt growth further when job growth is at -6.5%, and the unemployment rate has increased from 8.1% to 9.2%? Both are higher than the national average. The median age of the population of Lompoc is around 36, and the Cannabis presents a unique opportunity for Lompoc to live up to it's potential as "The City of Arts and Flowers". I urge you to find a creative solution, and genuinely collaborate with legal operators to establish a strong compliant Cannabis industry that will force illegal operations out of business. Please reject this moratorium.

My Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ariel Griset". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ariel Griset