

September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

RE: Urgency Ordinance No. 1699(22)

Dear Council Members,

I am writing today to voice my objection to Urgency Ordinance No. 1699(22) and to encourage support for the City of Lompoc's free market approach to the Cannabis Industry. The City of Lompoc has seen millions of dollars in investment to its communities and the cannabis industry will create well-paying jobs for Lompoc residents. Recently, the county of Santa Barbara has approved Land Use Permits for over 1400 acres of cannabis businesses and those businesses will be looking for cannabis friendly cities to create infrastructure that supports their operations. Residents of Lompoc can cite numerous old "ugly" looking buildings that are currently being improved and beautifying the City of Lompoc by various cannabis operations. Regarding the licensing process, Mayor Osborne was recently quoted *"It allowed us to stay out of the politics of choosing who got the opportunity to have a successful business. It meant that you went through a normal process like every other business in town,"*. The cities free market approach will dictate the amount of operators that can be supported in the city and the competition will fester innovation and investment to capture the market within the city.

Please reject a moratorium on issuing new licenses and allow cannabis operators to freely compete for Lompoc's business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mario de la Piedra', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mario de la Piedra  
Operations Officer  
Farming First Holdings LLC