From:	Holly Sheldon Lee
To:	Marijuana Licensing (CED sponsored); Marijuana, CED ABC (CED sponsored)
Subject:	Specific Objection to License Application #10901
Date:	Saturday, February 11, 2017 4:57:41 PM
Attachments:	OBJECTIONto10901.docx

To: Alaska Marijuana Control Board

From: Holly Sheldon Lee, P.O. Box 1, Talkeetna, AK 99676

(907) 232-4063

Date: February 11, 2017

Regarding: Objection to specific marijuana establishment license for:

Jmdn Enterprises, LLC and/or The High Expedition Company

13465 E. Main Street, Talkeetna, AK 99676

P.O. Box 1127, Talkeetna, AK 99676

Current license application # 10901 and previously license application #10641

In 2016, Joe McAneney arrived in Talkeetna and began attending all of our town meetings. He told us that he was going to start a marijuana store on Main Street and there was nothing the town could do about it. He posted a notification to this effect (in an uncustomary place for public notices) for a few days. Next he boasted publically that no one commented on his public notice because no one objected. Only a few residents saw the notification for a couple of days and when they went back to get the information on where to comment, it was gone (see attached statement). Mr. McAneney then worked closely with our new Assemblyman Randal Kowalke, to change the definition of a Mat-Su Borough Public Park to disqualify the 2 parks that have been established on Main Street of Talkeetna since the 1960s. Against the majority of public opinion in Talkeetna, Mr. Kowalke continued to lobby the Mat-Su Borough for Mr. McAneney interests, ending in the Assembly's actions of a questionable amendment to "grandfather" Mr. McAneney's "intentions" into our 2 block long Main Street. We cannot find that Mr. McAneney has a State business license, a Mat-Su Borough business license or any permission from the State of Alaska Marijuana Board, so what the Borough grandfathered is unclear.

Our long-time residents and families are shaken up by the behavior and intentions of Jmdn Enterprises, LLC – The High Expedition Company here. The young men from New York are actively using bully tactics with long-time residents of Talkeetna. Recently on February 4, 2017 at the State Marijuana Board Meeting teleconference we identified the sarcastic, mean-spirited voice of a man that works for Jmdn Enterprises, LLC – The High Expedition Company and has yelled at us on Main Street when we were measuring the 66' distance between the proposed marijuana retail store and the Mat-Su Borough Park restrooms-washrooms.

We have never had to deal with anything like this as a community. Following is a list of reasons that we do not want a marijuana store in the heart of our community, on our Main Street, or anywhere inside the Special Use Districts (SPUDs) of our unincorporated area of the State. By separate email you will receive letters and testimony from our community along with petitions that we signed.

CONS of a retail marijuana business on Main Street in Talkeetna

Talkeetna is a “postage stamp” Alaskan town. Many Alaskans, visitors from the lower 48 and international travelers come to enjoy our quintessential, historic place where the three rivers meet (Susitna, Chulitna and Talkeetna). Main Street in Talkeetna, is 2 blocks in length with Public Parks and Mat-Su Borough restrooms-washrooms at both ends of the street. The restrooms located next to the proposed retail marijuana business, are some of the few with flush toilets and residents use them as well as tourists during the summertime. When I was growing up here in the 1970s, there were tire swings and a homemade slide at the Park. Over time the Mat-Su Borough took over the Park and made it tenting only and began charging visitors.

66’ feet away from these family tenting Park restrooms is the building that a 26 year old New Yorker (that moved here 11 months ago) speculated on and purchased to open a retail marijuana business. He told people that he was going to have a juice bar in the downstairs of the old Chocolate Store and sell pot upstairs in the attic, where two customers at a time could occupy. We have been in the attic in this small, old cabin and there is hardly any room upstairs let alone room for a retail marijuana store.

The National Park Service Talkeetna Ranger Station is 128’ feet from this location at the end of Main Street. Children’s programs are offered at the Ranger Station on Wednesdays and day camps during the summer. The children that attend these functions as well as the tourist that come here, have to walk past the proposed marijuana store location to get to the Rivers. Federal officers working at the Talkeetna Ranger Station have arresting ability as marijuana is illegal Federally, and have stated that they will do so if it is found on their land.

A marijuana store downtown will do irreparable harm to our Federal Historic District on the National Registry. Talkeetna has grown “cultural tourism” where tourists come to visit our historic town. The retail marijuana business would negatively affect our tourist economy in multiple ways. Most tourists that are visiting our charming boutique Alaskan community do not want to smell marijuana. In 2016 when our population was 852 people, 300,000 tourists visited our one street town on one of 25 busses a day, during the 100 days that constitute our summer season. Over time our tourist economy has developed and the tour companies such as Princess, Holland America and Greyline all have sanctions against marijuana in their hotels or on their busses.

Cost and demand of local EMS services has increased dramatically in towns that have legalized marijuana. Response to varying cases of toxicity from local residents and tourists rose over 100% in towns throughout Colorado. Sunshine Clinic, our community health center, and our EMS are already grossly overtaxed during the tourist season. Our health center runs purely on grant money. Tourist visiting Talkeetna, smoking and ingesting pot, many for the first time, will inevitably lead to issues that will tax our community resources further than ever before.

The proposition of the retail marijuana business in downtown Talkeetna has brought about tempers and threats from these new pro-pot advocates and it has negatively impacted our community. They have yelled at long-time residents and elders on Main Street in a violent and vulgar manner about the matter. They have threatened locals not to interfere with the business being licensed (12/15/16 phone call). The possibility of retail marijuana has already impacted our way of life and peaceful enjoyment of our small community where we were raised and raised our children. We do not feel safe now. Our town is already suffering from a heroin and methamphetamine epidemic and the community cannot handle a retail marijuana store in the heart of our community on Main Street in our Special Use District. Our community council started a “drug committee” to work with the Clinic regarding the epidemic. Last September a MSB contractor was extracting the sewage from the outhouses in the Park at the head of Main Street. The pump broke because it extracted so many used, dirty heroin needles. The committee is exploring subjects such as placing heroin needle cans in the outhouses and painting the daylight roof blue so someone inside cannot see their veins to shoot up.

Research reveals that when retail marijuana moves into a community it imports organized crime. We have no police or Alaska State Trooper presence in Talkeetna any more. For the last year and a half since the AST pulled out of Talkeetna, Troopers have to drive from Meadow Lakes (1 hour) to respond to an emergency in Talkeetna. Recently, the news reported that the Troopers are going to pull out of the Wasilla area too. That means that Palmer will be the closest Trooper responders which are almost 2 hours away. This is the furthest place in our history of 100 years that authorities have been based, that are responsible to respond to our town. We will see vigilante justice if this pot shop is approved.

A majority of our residents that voted for marijuana to be legal though never thought we would be

threatened by the proposition on our Main Street or in our town site (SPUDs). We disapprove of a drug den in the immediate area of our historic town, which has always been a residential neighborhood, in the heart of our town.

This situation will transport designer THC edibles into our town, where there has been none before. We are highly concerned about children eating the edibles by mistake or on purpose. Also with the extremely high THC content in the now-a-day extract that will be available, it will developmentally change, addict and divert the life of our curious children if available on Main Street. We have never seen the likes of the potency of what is available. It is not the pot of the 1970s.

Our residents are just finding out about this and are frightened and want our Community Council to have the SPUD committee start to recommend policy and procedures for this industry that we overwhelmingly want to be located on the outside of the community council boundaries. Many, many residents of Talkeetna, came out of the woodwork to give their testimony against a marijuana store on our Main Street and sent in letters to the council protesting. Against the will of the majority of the community, not a single person on the Talkeetna Community Council would make a motion to create a committee. Our community council is currently a small special interest group that is supporting a free-for-all.

After we received no help from our community council we went to the Mat-Su Borough Assembly with petitions, testimonies and letters pleading for protection for our community. Many of us drove 4 hours round trip to testify at the MSB Planning Committee, the MSB Marijuana Board and the MSB Assembly. We were shocked that instead of listening to our plea the MSB Assembly made an amendment to "grandfather" in the New Yorker's pot operation even though it is not a business and is located 66' from our Park. Our community literally walked out of that meeting broken hearted. Every member of our Borough Assembly except Mr. Matthew Beck (who was absent) voted to expose our families and our community to a retail marijuana store in the heart of our town, against our wills (after we asked them not to), just to get the tax money. We want it moved out of town. Please spare our little community from all that is involved in the industrial retail marijuana sales out of New York City.

We are in a serious situation that has the makings to change our history in an ugly way as we are already struggling. This is our Kairos moment. Thank you for your time and what you can do to help us lifetime Alaskans up here.

Holly Sheldon Lee

John Stefanski
P.O. Box 1210
Talkeetna AK 99676

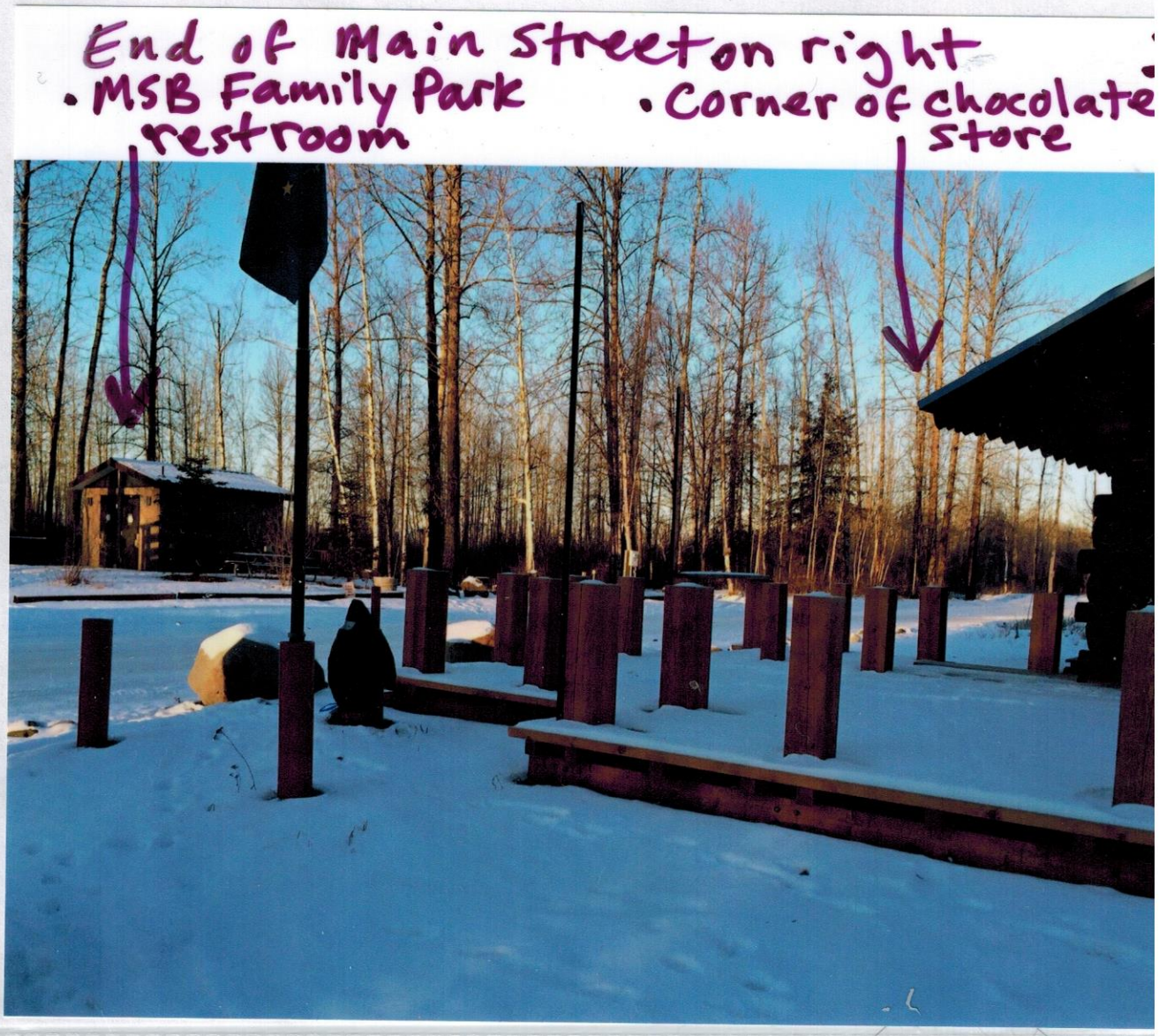
Dec 18 2016

355-8733 Cell
733-3478 Hm

I, John Stefanski, state that in August 2016, I saw the posting of Joe & Dan's Pot Shop so called public notice on the outside advertising board of the U.S Post Office in Talkeetna. I went to the inside of post office to see if it was posted properly inside which it was not. I came back a few days later to get the address to submitt comments but could not find the notice any where in or out of the Talkeetna Post office.

Sincerely JOHN STEFANSKI

Proposed marijuana store is shown below. NY resident bought the old Chocolate store on speculation. For 15 years families and children came to town to buy chocolates there right next to our park at the end of Main Street.

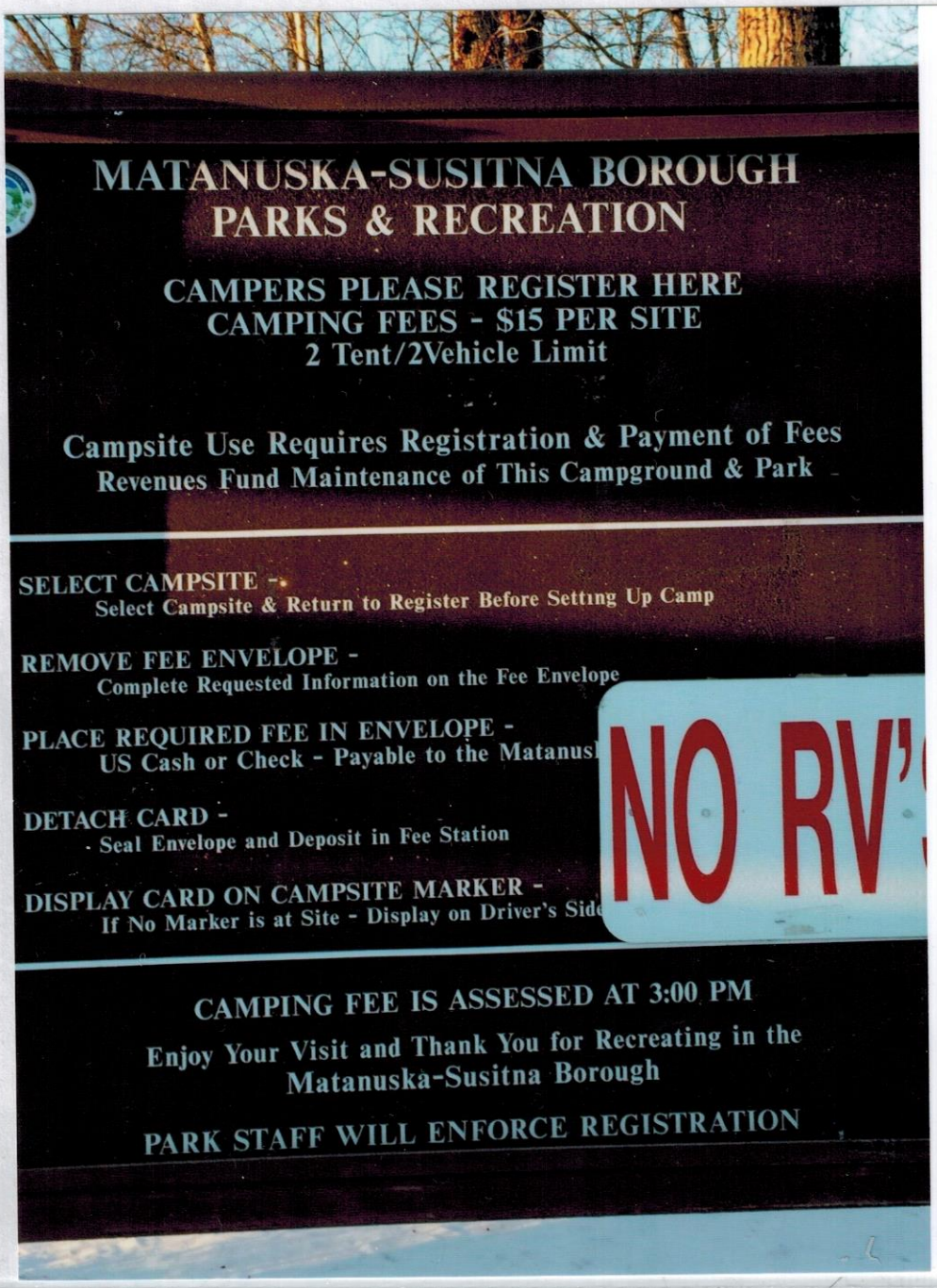


Across street closer view of Park sign and restroom

2

Traditional Alaskan Family
tent camping park

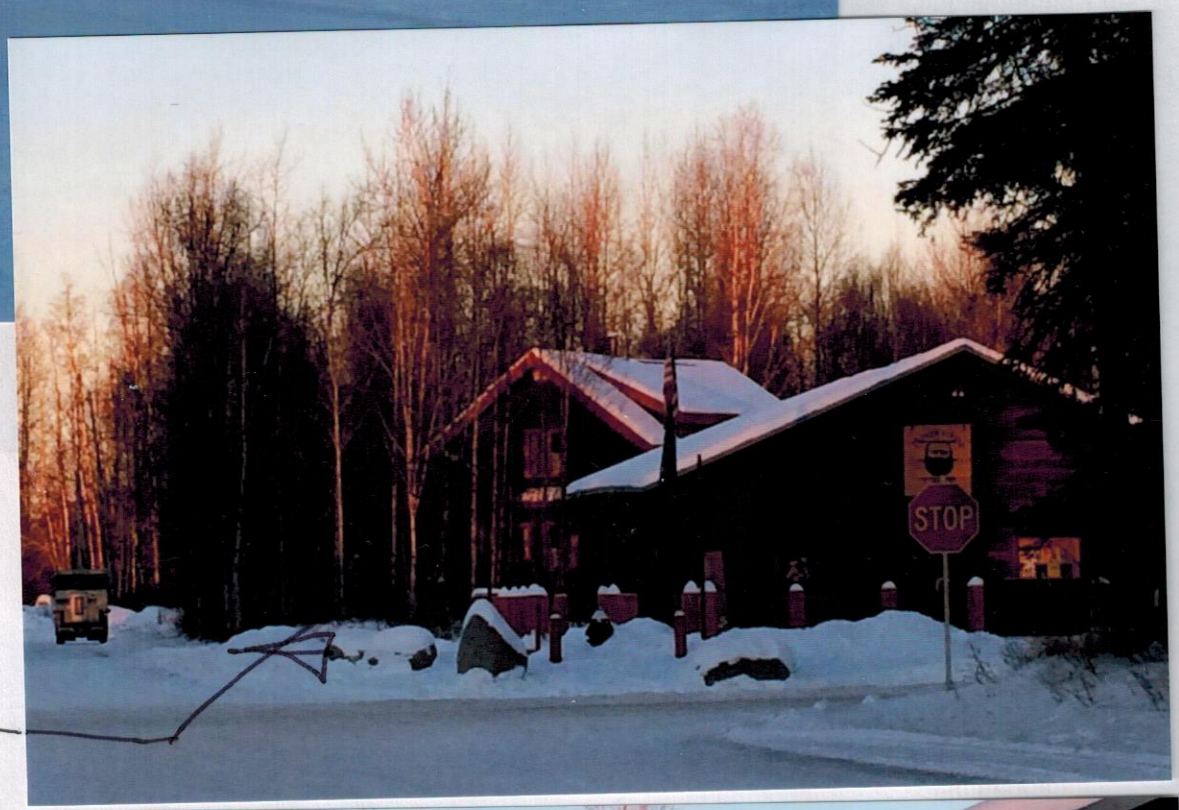
4



View to the left 10' of last pic. 6
We are afraid of retail marijuana in

NPS Talkeetna Ranger Station

proposed Marijuana Store 128' From NPS Land



Mr. Okonek's home right behind

proposed store and deck in front of long time Talkeetna resident