From:	Beth Valentine
To:	Marijuana Licensing (CED sponsored); Marijuana, CED ABC (CED sponsored)
Cc:	joe@thehighexpedition.com
Subject:	Objection to Specific Application, #10901
Date:	Thursday, March 02, 2017 11:00:23 PM

To: Alaska Marijuana Control Board, Alcohol and Marijuana Licensing
Board

From: Beth Valentine, P.O. Box 270, Talkeetna, AK 99676,
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Date: March 2, 2017

Objection: to specific Marijuana retail establishment license,
Jmdn Enterprises, LLC, Joe McAneney and Dan Nelson and or DBA The High Expedition Company
Physical Address: 13465 E. Main Street, Talkeetna, AK 99676,
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1127, Talkeetna, AK 99676

Current License Application #10901
Previous License Application #10641

Dear Marijuana Licensing Board,

I will outline my main objections to having a retail marijuana shop in our Special Use District of Main Street Talkeetna. When the community voted last October in favor of marijuana to be grown and sold in our area there were state laws in place. Many people who voted

thought our main street would be a protected area.

There are multiple different parks located in downtown area, the river park that is our overnight campground (66 feet from proposed license), since the 1960's, the main park directly across from Nagley's Trading Post and the ball park. We also have children's programs run out of the Don Sheldon Hangar, sponsored by Denali Arts Council, most of these programs have kids present everyday during the summer months whether it be Circus practice, drama or musicians. We also have the main south side Denali National Park Service running kids programs that walk down to the river frequently. The Susitna Salmon Center also operates a children's program once a week in the summer. I mention this because the National Park Service building hosts about 25,000 to 30,000 visitors every summer, they are located approximately 120 feet from this purposed cannabis store. This makes our town unable to have a state-lawful cannabis store.

When the vote was taken at our borough assembly, unbeknownst to the community because there were no postings or notifications, or was proper borough procedure followed that "parks" were being redefined by the Matanuska Susitna Borough Assembly. This was done so a pot shop could apply to the borough for a Conditional Use Permit and be on Main Street Talkeetna. Furthermore, a CUP was found not necessary in our borough SPUD areas in October. The borough has recently rectified that mistake but in the meantime they

grandfathered the High Expedition store unto Main Street of Talkeetna. This is all before Joe McAneney, representing the High Expedition did not even qualify for an Alaska State marijuana selling license. He was not eligible because of length of time spent in the state of Alaska or had your board approved his application or had it even been reviewed. We are crying fowl play by our assembly people. We don't understand how these two things can be lawful, one changing the state recommendation to parks and children programs, and moreover, grandfathering in a business without a license. It seem to us someone has their hand in benefiting by this business.

Talkeetna is a very unique, quaint little village. The main street area of 2 blocks is recognized as a Historical District. This is a federally recognized under a national registry, the marijuana shop will threaten our registry. We also are in a SPUD, this main street area has it's own regulations and it's own set of specifications. Our town sees around 300,000 tourists in the summer months. We have many tour companies that supply these visitors to us and they have a zero tolerance policy of marijuana at all of their hotels close by and especially on their ships and buses (the very transportation to their hotel from Talkeetna). It is very out of character for these tourist to be doing drugs. They are in general, retired and on a fixed income. Approximately 20 businesses border our main street, for one of these to be a marijuana retail store will change the face of our postage stamp town.

Another objection is that the Alaska State Troopers no longer have a base in our area. The station is now 70 miles away. It takes 2-24 hours for a trooper to arrive to the scene of a crime or an emergency. We have very little law enforcement in our area anymore. This area they patrol is one of the largest areas in the state and it reaches from Houston, Willow, Hatcher's Pass, Trapper Creek, Petersville, Talkeetna, Chase and the railroad and highway systems up to Hurricane bridge on the Parks highway. It's enormous, which is very scary to us because of all the alcohol abuse in the summertime business owners can be assured they will be broken into at least once in the summer months already and if we add legalized marijuana to the list of substance abuse in the area we are overtaxing our emergency responders and troopers.

Beautiful downtown Talkeetna is a family friendly area. Just the unsightly presence of the shop with the extra security, like steel doors, bars on the windows, warning signs is not appealing for the character of our downtown area. This business would border where kids walk freely, parades are held, children's groups frequent, families camping, the only path to the riverfront, and tourists are mingling. I was former president of the Talkeetna Chamber of Commerce, we like this culture, we treasure that it is still a safe place for children to walk about freely. A marijuana retail shop just doesn't fit what we have worked for, for so many years. Seriously, there is a public restroom 66 feet away, I'm sure that the restroom will be used for intaking the product customers

have just bought. Another issue I foresee is there isn't any parking. The business owners themselves will have to park on the street, there is no land for customer parking.

We have a serious drug problem in our town already. We have a task force working with Sunshine Community Health Center on what to do about it. We have heroin needles blocking our sewage, we are known as the meth capital of Alaska, you tell me why this is good business to open a cannabis store in downtown Talkeetna. We do know that the revenue raised, (which I don't even think there will be revenue for our borough from the High Expedition, because of not having to have a CUP with our borough) is it worth wrecking more lives and having more people addicted to this gateway drug, that could lead to other way more harmful drugs. The treatment and addiction programs that our state will have to pay for in the future, and the lives that will be wrecked, far outweighs the benefits of having this store.

We appreciate your consideration, many people in our town have petitioned our borough assembly, testified, and wrote letters. I challenge you to read every email sent in opposition, look at all the signatures that object to a main street marijuana shop in Talkeetna. Call them and talk to them, this issue is near and dear to the culture of our town, please take heed and research what our borough has illegally done to make this shop happen. For one business man to move to our town and decide that this is the business for him and his partner,

that will change Talkeetna forever is not fair to the long term residents that were born and raised there. It's not fair to our Historical District, our parks and rec. areas, our residents, our visitors, and our children.

One last side note to the board, I feel like this issue can split towns. It is incredibly scary to send this to the actual applicant of the license with my name on it. I think that the board should take these objections and yes email them to the applicant, but without specific names on them, it puts us at risk that object. One of these partners is a neighbor of mine. I own businesses in this town, I have children here and our extended family lives in Talkeetna. We have already experienced strange consequences of objecting to this license. It's a fight that is dividing our town deeply and it is putting my family at risk.

Thank you for considering my objection.
Sincerely,

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