From:	John Bender
To:	Marijuana Licensing (CED sponsored)
Cc:	Talkeetna Community Council; joe@thehighexpedition.com; Henry, Brenda (GOV sponsored)
Subject:	In support of specific application (Marijuana Establishment License, #10901)
Date:	Saturday, February 04, 2017 11:36:18 AM

Dear Board members:

I recently send an email incorrectly identifying JMDN Enterprises LLC as the applicant for a Marijuana Establishment Licence located at 13465 E Main St in Talkeetna. It has come to my attention that the actual applicant/licencee is "The High Expedition Company" with was granted License #10901.

I have copied my original email below, substituting the correct business entity name and licence number below, Please accept my apologizes for any confusion I may have caused.

I am writing to you today as a resident of the Talkeetna area and a property owner, resident and constituent here in the Upper Susitna Valley in support of Joe McAneney and his business,The High Expedition Company (Marijuana Establishment License, #10901 located at 13465 E Main St in Talkeetna). As a new member of the community Joe has gone above and beyond in communicating his business plans and working to understand and meet the needs of the community. He has been present at each Community Council meeting I have attended and offered his advice and support to many community causes. He has made clear his intentions and has attempted to work with others to allay any concerns that his business might have a negative impact on families, children, and other members of the community. I would hope that any business owner would follow.his model of integrity and honesty with not only potential customers, but also those who would prefer him to open his business elsewhere.

I am myself not likely to ever be a customer of Joe's as I do not use the products that he is planning to sell. But I am happy to have him and his business be a part of the community in which I live, work, and play. I am raising my six children here, and I have no concern that Joe would allow any of them to purchase products from his business, or knowingly allow anyone to provide marijuana or cannabis containing products to minors.

I voted to allow legal regulated sales of marijuana not because I use these products myself, but because I believe that prohibition of these substances has led to the creation of a criminal black market that has had a disastrous effect on our society at a state and national level as well as within local communities across our country, It is only through easy, ready access to available regulated product that will lead to an elimination of black market demand.

I believe that Joe McAneney has the integrity, honesty, and business acumen to make his business succeed while supplying a need in the community and thus reduce demand for illegal black market sales (not to mention, his business will provide much needed additional tax revenues for the state and borough).

I am aware that there are some members of the community who are opposed to marijuana sales in general, but that is to be expected, just as there are some who are opposed to alcohol sales or bars. To this point, there are a number of establishments licensed to sell beer, wine, and alcohol within a two block radius of Main Street in Talkeetna. For example, just down the street from the licensee's proposed business location is a brew pub located at 13605 E Main St, a package liquor store at 13650 E Main St, and multiple other bars and restaurants that serve alcohol. Furthermore, the residents of Talkeetna recently rejected a proposal to limit marijuana sales in the rural parts of the Mat-Su borough by a margin of 2 to 1 (official election results for the October 2016 Mat-Su election for proposition 2B in precinct 10-035 were 83 for / 162 against banning commercial sales of marijuana). Furthermore, the local community council has consistently been in favor of this application because the applicant/licencee has consistently demonstrated his willingness to work with the community, and has displayed honesty and integrity in communicating his plans and addressing his critics.

Please honor the intention of the voters in the state and borough to allow regulated sales of marijuana statewide. Please do not allow a small minority of people to impose their will against the majority who support marijuana sales in Talkeetna. This establishment is exactly the kind of business envisioned by the voters and a local and convenient retail outlet for regulated product is needed by the community in this location.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you my have.

Best regards,

John Bender
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