



MEMORANDUM

TO: Marijuana Control Board

DATE: January 14, 2020

FROM: Glen Klinkhart, Interim Director

RE: Tokin Up; Retail Store; Licensee #20844; Statements regarding international borders and allegations concerning the petition

BACKGROUND:

During the November 2019 Marijuana Control Board meeting the board was inquiring about statements made regarding the licensee saying they were told by Canadian Customs that it was legal to bring marijuana through Canadian Customs. This statement does not appear to be true as investigators have confirmed that such a practice would be against Canadian law.

That being said, a larger, and much more serious issue has been recently exposed concerning this same licensee, Tokin Up retail store in Tok, Alaska. Please see Investigator Mike Chiesa's memorandum.


This is an allegation of forgery. The ongoing investigation shows potential serious regulatory consequences and we bring it to the board at this time for your consideration. I am recommending the board consider rescinding the board's previous decision of the Tokin Up license (#20844) "approved with delegation" during the November 2019 board meeting pending the outcome of the ongoing AMCO investigation.

Glen Klinkhart
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Alcohol & Marijuana Control Board
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MEMORANDUM

TO: James Hoelscher, Enforcement Supervisor

FROM: Michael Chiesa, Special Investigator I 

DATE: 01/09/2020

RE: Lic# 20844 – Tokin Up- Petition Investigation Status Update

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this memo is to provide a status update on my investigation into allegations of forged signatures on the petition submitted to the Marijuana Control Board relating to the marijuana retail store license # 20844, Tokin Up.

SITUATION:

On 12/16/2019, I received a report from a man in Tok, Alaska who reported his wife's signature had been forged on a petition submitted to the Marijuana Control Board (MCB) for the November 13-15 2019 meeting.

I contacted the woman who told me she saw her name and a signature on a petition posted on the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office (AMCO) web site under board meeting documents for the specified meeting, under Tab 20 on a redacted copy of the petition submitted to the MCB by the licensee for Tokin Up. The redacted copy of the petition on the public web site did not reveal the date of birth or physical address on the line with the person's name and signature.

The woman stated her name was written on the petition in favor of the marijuana retail store but that she did not sign the petition and it was not her signature on the petition. The woman told me her date of birth (DOB) and physical address. I compared the DOB and physical address she provided with the DOB and physical address listed on the petition with her alleged forged signature. I noticed the DOB and physical address listed on the petition did not match her name and DOB.

After speaking to the first complainant, I have since interviewed three additional women. Two also reported seeing their name written on the petition and a signature that was not their signature. They both stated they did sign the petition. A comparison of their DOB and their

physical address with the DOB written on the petition by their name revealed an inaccurate DOB and physical address were written on the petition by their name.

One of the women who reported her forged signature was on the petition told me the date written on the petition by her name, 10/22/2019, was a date a month after she moved away from Tok to another state in mid-September.

A fourth woman said she did sign a petition in support of the marijuana retail store, however when she looked at the redacted petition posted on the AMCO web site, she stated the form she signed was not the same petition posted. She stated she works in education and recalls reading the header on the form which specifically listed the petition was for a "alcohol" establishment, not a marijuana establishment. She stated she remembered having a conversation with the person asking for signatures about the reference to an alcohol premises when the petition was relating to a marijuana premises. She stated the man requesting signatures told her it was OK, it was just the only form available. She said she believed somehow the form she signed was altered and later changed to reflect a marijuana premises instead of an alcohol premises. I did confirm her signature, DOB, physical address all matched her and she confirmed it was her handwriting on the petition submitted.

Other allegations and reports I have received relate signatures on the petition of deceased persons and signatures of people who reside outside of the required geographic location. People have also pointed out many of the printed names and signatures appear to have very similar handwriting.

This investigation is ongoing and there are other possible victims of forged signatures I am attempting to interview.

SUMMARY:

As this is an ongoing investigation, I do not want to publicly reveal any specific details of the complainants/victims to protect the integrity of the investigation until it is completed. With the upcoming MCB meeting I felt it was important to provide an update on the investigation and some of the allegations and concerns relating to the integrity of the petition submitted to the MCB.