

Ali, Maya M (CED)

From: CED AMCO REGS (CED sponsored)
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 11:45 AM
To: Marijuana, CED ABC (CED sponsored)
Subject: FW: Change of Regs

For the mail box

From: Alexander Harmon <alexanderharmon94@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 3:52 PM
To: CED AMCO REGS (CED sponsored) <amco.regs@alaska.gov>
Subject: Change of Regs

You don't often get email from alexanderharmon94@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good day,

I am emailing you today to give my views on how we can have a better marijuana market in Alaska.

1. Thousands of studies have been shown that marijuana is not intoxicating nor causes harm to the public. It has never shown to be a dangerous substance. Nobody has ever died from it. These are lies that jeopardize the potential benefits of thousands of people who could benefit from the true healing effects of marijuana. The hazard cautions on products is unnecessary and a waste of time.
2. High taxation and government spending have sucked the finances out of the marijuana industry and is a huge burden on the business owners. Just because something is new and unpopular to the older generation doesn't mean tax it into oblivion. We are suppose to support Alaskan business. Not bring it down.
3. Nobody has the right to dictate free-market enterprise. The marijuana board is suppose to serve the public and cannabis market, not police it and other cannabis markets. Alaskan have the right to run each individual business as they see fit without government or round table interference.

Common law states a man is legal to do business freely as he sees fit as long as he is not causing harm to the public. Which cannabis is not a harm to the public. Therefore there is no need for liberal government oversight, but basic procedures that allow for fair free market practices.

This is another sector of this state that has fallen into the trap of government corporatism that fuels the decline of our economic society.

Thank you.

March 26, 2024

Sent via United States Mail and Electronic Mail

Alaska Marijuana Control Board
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1600
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
mcb.amco@alaska.gov

Re: Comments Pertaining to Elliott Jackson During Board's January 31, 2024 Meeting

Dear Members of the Board:

This firm represents Elliott Jackson, a member of the business community and a resident of Seward. During the Board's Meeting on January 31, 2024, the Board considered and approved Tufted Puffin, LLC's application for a new Retail Marijuana Store license with Onsite Consumption Endorsement (License Number 36580) (hereinafter the "License").¹ During this meeting, the Board heard from Randy Wells, the designated licensee for Tufted Puffin, LLC, among other representatives of Tufted Puffin, LLC.

Mr. Wells utilized certain of his time before the Board to criticize and attack various objections to the issuance of the License. Objections to issuance of the License were lodged by Mr. Jackson and others from the community. In seeking to assure the Board that any such objections should not prevent issuance of the License, Mr. Wells asserted various misrepresentations regarding Mr. Jackson.² Mr. Jackson is concerned that Mr. Wells' misrepresentations may have negative repercussions concerning other dealings before the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office, including before the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board and the Marijuana Control Board. As such, Mr. Jackson submits this correspondence to correct the most egregious of Mr. Wells' misrepresentations made on January 31, 2024 and to invite the Board to direct any concerns or questions regarding this topic to Mr. Jackson for further response.

It should first be mentioned that during the course of Mr. Wells' unfounded attacks on Mr. Jackson, the Board expressed its misgivings at taking and considering such testimony. During some of the most pointed of Mr. Wells' testimony, Board Member Ely Cyrus interrupted and stated: **"I'm not opposed to hearing facts but when it goes into describing**

¹ See Tab 21 of MCB Meeting Agenda dated January 31, 2024 through February 1, 2024.

² Mr. Wells also asserted misrepresentations regarding other individuals and entities; however, this correspondence primarily focuses on any such misrepresentations concerning Mr. Jackson.

people’s actions or interpretations of their actions and they’re not present in a public meeting, that makes me a little uncomfortable . . . I’m not sure it’s appropriate to be hearing interpretations of other people’s actions when they’re not here to defend themselves.” Mr. Cyrus further stated: **“In the future we should stick to facts and not allow diatribes on other person’s actions. I appreciate the facts of the letters [referring to the objections asserted by Mr. Jackson and others] and the background, but a simple background on the possible conflicts of interest would be sufficient not a deep dive into their actions and motives.”**

The rest of the Board appeared to generally agree with Mr. Cyrus’ statements, but notwithstanding, the damage was done. Prior to Board Member Cyrus’ comments, Mr. Wells made disparaging and untruthful statements about Mr. Jackson, including, among others: (1) that Mr. Jackson is not a resident of Seward, (2) that Mr. Jackson is disallowed from voting on issues local to Seward, (3) that Mr. Jackson possessed “vindictive” motives in objecting to the License, and (4) that Mr. Jackson committed crimes, or attempted to commit crimes, against Mr. Wells in retaliation for Mr. Wells’ refusal to support an unrelated business venture in Mr. Wells’ capacity as a member of Seward’s City Council. The latter set of allegations was particularly harmful and precipitated the first of Board Member Cyrus’ comments detailed above.

While the Board seemed to generally concur with Mr. Cyrus’ concerns regarding the propriety of Mr. Wells’ comments and misrepresentations, it appears the Board did adopt the thrust of Mr. Wells’ arguments, that is, the Board agreed with Mr. Wells’ contention that the various objections to the License should be minimized or disregarded entirely. Mr. Wells convinced the Board to adopt this proposition by improperly characterizing virtually all of the objections as being orchestrated by Mr. Jackson. Mr. Wells further minimized the weight of the objections by improperly characterizing the objectors as originating with out-of-town individuals that only reside in Seward “three months out of the year.” In other words, Mr. Wells argued to the Board that the objections were worthy of less credence because the individuals or entities that lodged the objections possess only a seasonal interest in the town’s affairs and, moreover, cannot vote on local issues even if they object. In so doing, Mr. Wells successfully prevented the Board from considering Mr. Jackson’s legitimate concerns regarding the safety of his employees and the negative effects of marijuana smoke on his nearby hotel business and its patrons.

Evidencing the success of Mr. Wells’ strategy, Board Member Bruce Schulte stated: **“The letters [referring to the objections asserted by Mr. Jackson and others] were many and raised some legit questions, but . . . that’s interesting, I had not considered the possibility that these other businesses were so seasonal. That’s an interesting twist that we haven’t really, I don’t recall encountering before. Maybe that’s more common down here in Southeast, but that’s . . . I find that really compelling. I mean I don’t want to**

dismiss their concerns but at the same time, you guys [referring to Mr. Wells] are a year-round business, they're *strictly* seasonal." Ultimately, the Board approved the License over the many objections asserted by Mr. Jackson and others.

It is troubling that Mr. Wells was given broad latitude to attack and disparage Mr. Jackson before the Board. It is similarly troubling that the Board appeared to simultaneously express the view that Mr. Wells' comments were improper while also accepting and adopting the thrust of Mr. Wells' arguments—the License should be granted because of the *identity* of the objectors not because the objections lacked substantive merit. In other words, after characterizing Mr. Jackson as a criminal outsider with no "real" vote in local affairs, it was an easy task for Mr. Wells to circumvent any discussion of the merits of the objections. The result was that the License was granted without critical scrutiny or examination of the objections, and it is Mr. Jackson's position that thorough consideration of the objections, without Mr. Well's misrepresentations and steering of the issue, would have yielded a different outcome. Again, Mr. Jackson's objections centered around employee safety and the negative effects on his hotel's patrons, both of which are serious and legitimate objections to granting the License.³

While these issues are troubling to Mr. Jackson, again, the purpose of this correspondence is to point out and correct some of the most egregious misrepresentations made by Mr. Wells to the Board on January 31, 2024. As noted by Mr. Wells in his "diatribe" against Mr. Jackson, Mr. Jackson owns liquor licenses and frequently has business before the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office, including the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Until January 31, 2024, Mr. Jackson had never been accused of wrongdoing in any proceeding before the Board. Mr. Jackson does not desire that Mr. Wells' misrepresentations made to the Board negatively affect any pending or future matters before the Alcohol & Marijuana Control Office or either of its Boards.

As such, Mr. Jackson submits this correspondence for the Board's consideration and for the record. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns on the issues raised herein. Mr. Jackson will cooperate in any additional efforts taken to correct or clarify the record.

³ It is worth noting that open-air marijuana consumption will occur on a busy corner in Seward where smoke is guaranteed to drift into at least one nearby restaurant and Mr. Jackson's hotel. Additionally, the open-air marijuana consumption will occur steps away from the Alaska Railroad stop for the City of Seward. Mr. Wells presented no plan whatsoever for mitigating these harmful effects, and, as such, the remainder of the negatively effected community members and visitors to Seward will be left to suffer. Mr. Wells' profit margin should not have been allowed to dominate the wellbeing, safety, and financial interests of all other stakeholders. *See also* 3 AAC 306.015(e) (obligating the Board to impose conditions or restrictions on a marijuana license or endorsement when in the public's interest).

Very truly yours,

LANDYE BENNETT BLUMSTEIN LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JRC', is written over the typed name.

John R. Crone

cc: Client

Ali, Maya M (CED)

From: william adams <wintergreens@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 1, 2024 9:53 AM
To: Marijuana, CED ABC (CED sponsored)
Subject: Re: Restrictions on marijuana store per population

Categories: Forwarded to MJ Licensing

You don't often get email from wintergreens@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear AMCO Board,

I am requesting the AMCO Board provide restrictions on marijuana retail stores in all areas of Alaska in relation to population.

I own and operate a marijuana store in Haines, AK. Last year, a second retail store opened by another owner. There is now a possibility of a third store which posted their intentions in our local paper. Haines cannot support three retail stores. Alcohol sales and bars are restricted and marijuana operations should follow suit.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,
William Adams
Winter Greens, Haines

Ali, Maya M (CED)

From: CED AMCO REGS (CED sponsored)
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 11:38 AM
To: Marijuana, CED ABC (CED sponsored)
Subject: FW: Suggestion Box

From: LaRae Blake <l4r43.bl4k3@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 11:46 AM
To: CED AMCO REGS (CED sponsored) <amco.regs@alaska.gov>
Subject: Suggestion Box

You don't often get email from l4r43.bl4k3@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the State of Alaska mail system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

There are states that have adopted laws that favor utilizing state medical benefits for the use of medical marijuana, and I believe there are plenty of disabled and terminal patients that would appreciate the option of using a natural means of pain relief, hunger stimulus, and nausea relief right here in Alaska. Rather than supporting big pharma, we as a community in this state should be supporting local licensed growers and retail outlets. I also believe there are medical professionals that would prefer prescribing marijuana over the use of opiates. I do not know how to approach implementing such a program, but do encourage marijuana advocates (hopefully in your office and/or Juneau counterparts that are familiar with the birth to realization of such ideas) to explore other state models. Please compare our system and licensing and accepted forms of payments.... Can we serve a part of the community that is marginalized? Our retired, disabled, and terminally ill?

Sincerely,
Regina LaRae Blake

Get [Outlook for Android](#)