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Greg Lucey

From: Laura Gould <lauragould724@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 8, 2020 8:15 PM
To: Greg Lucey
Subject: Public Comment for 11/10 City Council Meeting

Hello,

My name is Laura Gould, and I live at 480 Main Street in Malden. I am writing to oppose the proposed pause on soliciting additional applications for marijuana license. The voters of Massachusetts (and of Malden) made their will clear in 2016 when they voted Yes on Question 4, and this proposed obstruction denies the Malden community opportunities for business, especially amidst a global pandemic where many businesses have lost income and the city has received decreased tax revenue.

Implementing obstructionist policies denies community members who have already put in bids for retail marijuana shops from fair access to implement their businesses. Marijuana poses significantly fewer risks than alcohol - yet, liquor stores are open and new liquor stores have set up shop even during the pandemic. Marijuana shops should be afforded the same right to exist without being hindered by policies that deny the will of the voters.

It has been four years since Malden residents voted Yes on question 4 to legalize recreational marijuana. Please do not pause on soliciting applications, and allow members of the community who have already put in bids continue through the process unobstructed.

Thank you,

Laura

Laura Gould
she/her/hers

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Greg Lucey

From: Warren Lynch <warrenlynch@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Greg Lucey
Cc: Jadeane Sica; Peg Crowe; Paul Condon; Craig Spadafora; Stephen Winslow; Barbara Murphy; Neal Anderson; David Camell; Amanda Linehan; Ryan O'Malley; Debbie Demaria
Subject: Public comment on item 372-20

My name is Warren Lynch, and I live at 412 Pleasant Street in Malden where I have been for over 10 years now. When the City first agreed to accept applications for cannabis shops, it was written into the ordinance that it would be done on a "rolling monthly basis".

Since we are Malden residents and not millionaires, we were not ready in Month 1 like some more wealthy applicants were. But we were ready in Month 2.

In Month #2, June of 2019, our company, Benevolent Botanicals, gave our written intent to apply in the next monthly round of applications to the Mayor's office and the clerk of the CLEC board. We prepared our entire 200 page application, have been paying rent on our space since, have raised a substantial amount of investment money, and have attended every meeting of CLEC, making ourselves seen and paying attention to all the details, patiently waiting for the second monthly round to begin.

We are the only Malden residents to apply, we have deep community roots in Malden, we have a more compliant location than any other applicant except Kappy's, and unlike any other applicant, we have written letters of recommendation, from one of the founders of community policing (like we have here in Malden), from the National Political Director of the Libertarian Party, and from the former Chair of the Melrose Democrats.

We are deeply qualified. I was the co-host of a radio show that won "Best Cannabis News Source" in 2019, and our Chief Operations Officer, my partner Stee McMorris, did her Bachelors in Neuroscience on the effects of cannabis on the brain. And as active Malden community organizers, we feel that we have a lot to bring to the table to help the Malden community, as our company could pay for lead pipes, road improvements, new hydrants and many other problems which applicants from out of town may not even know exist. And unlike them all, we can run community assistance and funding programs with people from our own Malden community.

As a company, we will not only put money into the community, we will run the kind of ethical, community-connected business which is what everyone wants most in a cannabis shop applicant. Because this is where all our friends are, and we live here, we are certain, and can prove, that our business will have a positive effect on the community, rather than a negative one.

Therefore, on behalf of Benevolent Botanicals and anyone else who has been waiting for the second round, especially any other Malden residents, I hope that you consider an amendment for CLEC to at least consider applications which have been waiting all this time, especially if they are Malden residents.

Rather than having us pay rent for another full year before even being considered, when we could be helping the community as soon as we open.

Thank you very much,

Warren Lynch

CEO, Benevolent Botanicals

Malden resident (Ward 2)

412 Pleasant Street, Malden MA

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Greg Lucey

From: Paul Sherman <paulsherman13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Greg Lucey
Cc: Neal Anderson
Subject: Resolution 372-20 (retail marijuana) comments, 11/10/20

I write to express my opposition to the astonishing resolution that some city councillors are sponsoring to "pause" the process of retail marijuana licenses.

The voters of Malden convincingly voted in favor of bringing such retail businesses to the city. The process to consider them was painstakingly developed, and applicants have been respecting that process. While many surrounding cities have begun to reap the revenue benefits from these businesses, Malden has dragged its feet.

Claims that any Malden voters "didn't know what they were voting for" is a ridiculously weak argument. As if this were ever a valid excuse. Has there ever been a fraction of the hand-wringing going on about marijuana for the city's many liquor stores or donut shops, or anything else that someone might deem "unhealthy"? I sense a double standard.

The introduction of retail marijuana to Massachusetts has gone smoothly. It is likely to go smoothly in Malden. It's well past the time for the city council to do its job, continue the process of vetting applications and stop indulging in anachronistic "gateway drug" scare tactics that are really quite laughable in 2020.

We have much to worry about these days, but retail marijuana is low on the list. Let's bring these shops to Malden and use the resulting revenue wisely.

Thank you--
Paul Sherman
284 Ferry Street

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Greg Lucey

From: Stee McMorris <steemonster@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 6:37 PM
To: Greg Lucey
Subject: City Council public comment on 372-20

Good evening.

I am writing to express my distress that the Malden City Council is trying to turn back the clock and bypass the will of the voters by creating years of unnecessary delays to the opening of recreational adult use cannabis shops in Malden.

As a disabled person with a notoriously painful connective tissue disorder, affordable access to high quality cannabis has been absolutely essential to the management of my condition, and my quality of life. I am allergic to the top two medications used to treat the many kinds of pain resulting from my disorder, and without cannabis, I would not have any function or quality of life at all.

In light of this, I am writing to dispel some of the myths and misunderstandings around cannabis. I think most people who are new to the topic, when they think about recreational customers, picture rowdy college students. In reality, the fastest growing demographic in the recreational customer base is 55 years and older.

In fact, if cannabis is available, roughly 50% of people who take opiates to manage their pain will voluntarily switch to cannabis, which is much safer and, for most patients, has fewer side effects than heavy duty pharmaceuticals.

A recent study (Kruger, 2018) found that 78% of people who used cannabis did so to treat a medical or health condition. 42% (nearly half!) of all users said that cannabis allowed them to completely stop taking a pharmaceutical drug, while an additional 38% cut back their use of one once they had access to cannabis.

As a Men's Health report on this study notes, "People use medical weed for a wide variety of health issues, including chronic pain, depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, menstrual cramps, and headaches. It's also used to mitigate the adverse effects of chemotherapy, and to alleviate nausea in HIV-AIDS patients."

I understand that cannabis is not for everyone, just as alcohol and nicotine are not for everyone. But unlike the latter two substances, cannabis has significant positive medical applications. And we now know that a majority of customers even at recreational shops are using cannabis to help manage their health and well-being. Please do not cause needless delays and obstacles for those whose lives can be positively impacted by the presence of cannabis shops in Malden, which is what we as a community voted for.

Thank you,
Stee McMorris
412 Pleasant St, Malden

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From: James Meickle <eronarn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 8:42 PM
To: Greg Lucey
Subject: Providing public comment on City Council meeting (372-20)

I would like to provide my public comment for the city council meeting on Tuesday, relating to 372-20 (Resolve: That the City of Malden Cannabis Licensing Commission pause on soliciting additional applications for retail marijuana licenses so that the City can solicit voter feedback in the next municipal election on limits to the number of establishments allowed in the City)

Name: James Meickle
Address: 60 Main Street (Ward 1)
Comment:

My name is James, and I'm a homeowner and small landlord in Malden. I'm commenting to state my opposition to 372-20.

I've already heard just about every complaint about cannabis. That's because a decade ago, when I was a student activist, I helped pass compassionate care and decriminalization legislation across New England.

Nowadays, many people in my life use cannabis to manage their chronic illnesses, their medication side effects, and their mental health conditions. It's not a big deal at all, aside from how they're healthier and happier than they would have been a decade ago, which is a big deal indeed.

But having fought that uphill battle, I can tell you this: the people who are holding up legally permitted retail establishments today are the same kinds of people who were holding up medicine for cancer patients back then. I know it because they're using the exact same arguments and the exact same tactics.

Delay, even when the science and the public support are both crystal clear.

Add uncertainty, even when other states and cities already have well-functioning retail sales.

Keep on "just asking questions", even if it means small business owners have to withdraw their bids after years in permit purgatory.

It's embarrassing to hear this playbook rolled out to second-guess voters. And it's extra embarrassing that it'll hand over another year or more of retail taxes to the likes of Melrose and Brookline when we're facing such a challenging budget. Nobody would accept this meddling with liquor stores, or car dealerships, or other businesses - so why is it justified for cannabis?

The answer is it's not. Our existing system already has permits and city-wide store limits and community meetings and every other check against bad behavior you can imagine. Adding more red tape is a shameful attempt to bypass the oversight of the CLEC, scare away small business owners, and undermine the will of voters that overwhelmingly said "YES" to retail sales at the ballot box.

It is my sincere hope that the Council can leave the details of cannabis licensing to the CLEC, and instead focus on important issues like the pandemic and the eviction crisis.

Greg Lucey



From: Mary Pellegrini Wood <maryp@dartagnan.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 10:10 PM
To: Greg Lucey
Subject: Public comment on Resolve 372-20

Why should surrounding towns enjoy the additional tax revenue stream of legal cannabis businesses but not Malden?

Adult recreational cannabis was voted on in 2016. Elected officials in Malden need to stop imposing their outdated opinions of cannabis use on the rest of us. The people have spoken via the referendum question on legalization more than four years ago.

Surrounding towns such as Melrose have managed to open successful cannabis businesses without incident. Malden needs get with the times and to embrace the will of the people.

Mary Wood
35 Floral Ave
Malden

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Greg Lucey



From: Brendan Wood <brendanawood@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 9, 2020 10:12 PM
To: Greg Lucey
Subject: Public Comment on Resolve 372-20

To whom it may concern,

In 2016 the citizens of Massachusetts voted to legalize the adult use of cannabis. I realize cannabis has certain outdated moral and societal issues, but the health benefits far outweigh the supposed stigma.

In Malden we have liquor stores and pharmacies on nearly every corner. We have poverty and unemployment. Dispensaries bring cannabis to our neighborhoods, but also tax revenue.

I believe it's time Malden updates their outdated views on cannabis and finally embraces the voters will, and their additional taxes.

Thank you,

Brendan Wood
35 Floral Avenue
Malden, MA

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Greetings City Councillors,

I am writing today to speak about the Resolve put forward by Councillor Spadafora and Co-Sponsored by Councillors Murphy, Sica, Condon, and Anderson asking for a pause on the Malden CLC soliciting license applications for Retail Cannabis Shops. The Resolve asks for a pause until the city can solicit voter feedback in the next municipal election, but the city already received voter feedback when Malden residents voted in favor of creating a legal Cannabis market. In a time where almost all business have uncertain futures, and are worried about dramatically decreasing revenues, the City should not be setting limits on which types of businesses are allowed to thrive. Cannabis businesses offer the City a larger share of revenue than other types of businesses, and the shop currently operating in Melrose right along our border is one of the only businesses in the area I see consistently busy. Why would the City want to limit one of it's largest potential sources of revenue from business? Imposing this limit will only cost the City revenue while also creating a monopoly for those few lucky enough to have enough money to start the licensing process early. A vote in favor of this Resolve is a vote against the free-market, and a vote against our City's future financial success. Please consider removing all limits the city has set on Cannabis businesses, not setting more. This is a time for innovation, not for stifling progress.

Sincerely,

Jeff Taylor
57 Mount Vernon Street #1
Malden, MA 02148
339-224-1162
thisisjefftaylor@gmail.com

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Greg Lucey

From: Annie Oppedisano <aoppedisano59@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 2:27 PM
To: Greg Lucey
Subject: Public comment 11/10/2020

Mr. Lucey, I am submitting this to be read into the record opposing Councilor at Large Spadafora's motion to put a "pause" on the issuing of licenses for marijuana shops.

Marijuana shops provide a revenue stream previously unavailable to us. The citizens voted for this FOUR YEARS ago. Once again the Council is not listening to the will of the people similar to the overwhelming support to eliminate the trash tax in 2009.

As a tax payer, who has worked on fixing the current PAYT issue for the past 11+ years, to continue to be told we don't have money for this quality of life issue is ridiculous.

Whether or not you use marijuana there are many who do and are willing to pay the additional fees that support our City. This is similar to licensing liquor stores. No one under 21 is allowed to purchase either liquor or marijuana. How much money is Melrose collecting on our citizens?

We cannot afford to sit back and not benefit from this revenue stream. We are, if not already done, giving JRM another \$250,000 a year for the next 5 years and \$300,000 a year for 5 years after that. How many teachers and first responders will be let go to pay for them if we lose this revenue stream?

Please stop dragging your heels and do the job our citizens voted for. We will remember those who denied this lucrative revenue stream in November, 2021.

Respectfully,
Annie Oppedisano
92 Columbia Street

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Greg Lucey

From: Kimberly Gillette <kimberlymgillette@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 12:03 PM
To: Greg Lucey
Subject: Public comment

Hello,

I would like to speak at public comment tonight.

Kimberly Gillette
3 Sheridan Street
Malden Ma

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

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#369-20
#372-20
Greg Lucey

#9



From: Prisco Tammaro <priscotammaro@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Greg Lucey
Cc: Jadeane Sica; Ryan O'Malley; Mayor Christenson; Robert P. Knox
Subject: Public Comment: Malden Road bonding and Tree Details

Dear City Clerk Lucey,

I am writing regarding my support for the bonding of \$6M for city road construction.

I am asking the city to consider appropriating \$30,000 of it, which is one half of one percent (00.5%) of the total amount to soil preparation and new trees.

Municipal finances or priorities may not allow us to increase the yearly Tree Planting budget line item, but we can take a systemic approach to increasing Malden's canopy on a street-by-street basis as the roads are redone with multi-million dollar road projects.

I was fortunate enough to have my street redone a few years back and had mature trees replaced with saplings. I was alarmed when I saw them replace the tree pit dirt with the gravel rich dirt taken from below the street asphalt. Plants don't thrive in dirt, which is defined as the mineral particles such as rocks and sand. Plants thrive in soil, which is dirt WITH organic matter that includes beneficial microorganisms which feed the plants and maintain moisture.

I suggest the Community Forestry Program Advisory Committee be requested to provide a construction detail and specifications that can be copied to the \$6M project engineering documents, providing the tree pits with enough organic matter vs street gravel dirt. And they also provide a rule of thumb the design team shall attempt to meet with new tree per linear foot of street.

This will pay for itself in DPW labor time and lost trees, as soil with organic matter retains water and requires little additional water, whereas water runs off dirt and quickly dries it up, requiring multiple water feedings or the tree dies.

Respectfully,
Prisco Tammaro
56 Pine St
857-488-0577

Please consider supporting:
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You must be the change you want to see in the world. - Mahatma Gandhi

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Greg Lucey

From: Carey McDonald <mcdonald.carey@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 1:10 PM
To: Greg Lucey
Cc: Lisa M. Cagno
Subject: Public Comment re DEI Coordinator

This is a public comment re **Order 375-20** for an appropriation to hire a **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator** on tonight's City Council agenda.

As a Malden resident, I am very glad to see this investment move forward as part of the Mayor's UniteMalden 2020 pledge. Having a central approach to diversity and equity in our city is essential for living out the progressive, inclusive values that make our diverse community strong. However, I also have serious concerns about whether this is a big enough investment to really deliver on the goals of the pledge.

This summer, I joined 150 other Maldonians in writing a letter to Mayor Christenson asking him to do more for racial justice, urging him to double down on the UniteMalden 2020 commitments after those were not included in the annual budget. A group of us met with the Mayor and shared our concerns, which included the fact that, as the role was described, the planned hire of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator could be a setup for failure if it didn't receive enough support.

Now having seen a copy of the expected DEI Coordinator job description, I am confident that this is too much work for too little money to have the impact we need in Malden. It is an impossible portfolio, including sitting in on every hiring panel for city openings, assisting with the City's ADA Transition Plan, aiding a number of other groups like the Human Rights Commission, liaising with community groups, and setting equity and inclusion plans for the entire city. This job does not pay a director-level salary (looking at the annualized salary, not just the pro-rated amount included in the order for the remainder of the fiscal year) and only asks for a few years of experience, whereas comparable roles in the Boston area at nonprofits or universities expect twice as much training and expertise and pay accordingly. Personally, as a nonprofit executive who has been helping to lead DEI work for years, I estimate this portfolio requires at least three separate positions to do well. I can attest that it takes complex, long-term work at the highest levels to diversify your workforce and to shift culture and policies to be more inclusive and anti-racist.

Furthermore, this job is explicitly asking for applicants who are Black, Indigenous and People of Color who hold other marginalized identities. I do not want our community to bring in someone in this role, to potentially be one of the few people of color in leadership, and then set them up to fail, following an all-too familiar pattern of tokenism in institutions.

I urge the Council to support this order, but to also follow it up with the tough questions about what it will really take to live up to the progressive, inclusive ideals set forth in the UniteMalden 2020 pledge and be prepared to support that with additional appropriations as needed.

Sincerely,

Carey McDonald
33 Pierce St, Malden, MA

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Greg Lucey

From: Monique Ching <monique.w.ching@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 1:32 PM
To: Barbara Murphy; Craig Spadafora; Debbie Demaria; Stephen Winslow; Greg Lucey
Subject: Public comment: 11/10 Council meeting, item 375-20

Dear City Councilors and City Clerk Lucey,

I'd like to submit the following public comment regarding item 375-20 of the Nov. 10 City Council meeting.

I'd like, firstly, to applaud the Mayor and the City Council for taking this important first step toward creating a more equitable city — by seeking to hire a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator. I appreciate the City for heeding community input and formalizing this effort.

I wanted to note, however, that given the broad scope of this DEI Coordinator's responsibilities, I believe the compensation ought to be higher. Devising and implementing such broad policies across entities, as this person will be asked to do, is a director-level responsibility that should be compensated comparably — consistent with other department heads at the City.

Further, I would suggest that you include in the job posting a preferred qualification for candidates with proficiency in a non-English language that has a large presence in Malden. Because many Maldonians speak languages other than English, this qualification ought to be a priority for the hiring committee.

I also would encourage city officials and community members to be proactive in their outreach efforts around this job posting. One key barrier to attracting a range of candidates is lack of outreach to different networks and platforms. It's important that we open this opportunity up beyond the usual suspects.

Finally, I would ask that the Council, the Mayor, and other city officials empower the future DEI Coordinator to be bold and creative in their reforms of the City. I ask that you not make this a token position, but rather one that can help Malden be the inclusive and equitable city I know it can be.

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity.

Monique Ching
153 Salem St, Malden

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