

# **Public Comments in Support of Growing Community**

Received By City Planner after publishing the staff report

Mayor Strawser and City Council Members  
Nevada City Hall  
317 Broad Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

November 1, 2017

Re: Support Growing Community for Medical Cannabis Dispensary

Dear Mayor Strawser and City Council Members,

As a 47-year resident of Nevada City and Nevada County, and a City property owner working as a civil engineer in the Providence Mine business park, I am writing to encourage the Council to award its first medical cannabis dispensary permit to Growing Community. Growing Community is the only applicant that would serve patients, protect the environment, and give 100% of its net proceeds to local nonprofits that serve the community. Here are a few key points I want to make sure you are aware of:

- Growing Community is 100% local, its' volunteer Board of Directors are all Nevada County residents with deep community ties, and the Board has also secured all its' financing from local philanthropists who support this mission. And it will be locally managed by Paul Harton, the former General Manager of the local Briar Patch market.
- Growing Community addresses social and environmental impacts of cannabis use and cultivation in our community by giving the dispensary's profits directly to local nonprofits that provide environmental protections, social services for youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and more.
- Growing Community will protect the environment by purchasing from local farmers committed to cultivating cannabis in a manner that protects our land and water.
- Growing Community will be a full-service health and wellness center providing education and safe, legal access to high quality, locally grown medicinal cannabis for patients, and link to other holistic services such as Ayurvedic and herbal medicines and massage therapy.
- **Growing Community's location on Lower Grass Valley Road is ideal. It is zoned light industrial at the end of a frontage road with no residential neighbors or family services with children nearby.** While I fully support the use of medicinal cannabis, all of us with families would like some minor screening or distance from our children. My young children (8 and 10) and those of my friends and relatives, attend school on Searls Avenue, go to the South Yuba Club gym and the very popular Kuk Sool Won studio on Argall Way. The locations options before you that are right in the center of these features are highly undesirable from a family perspective. Please chose the Lower Grass Valley Road location!

I urge the City Council to choose Growing Community for its first medical cannabis dispensary because of its local operators, patient focus, commitment to local farmers and non-profits and its location, away from our children. And, it's revenues will remain local.

Sincerely,



Gabe Aronow, 517 Nursery Street, Nevada City

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[brucebeeley@gmail.com](mailto:brucebeeley@gmail.com)>

Date: Nov 13, 2017 6:54 AM

Subject: Please grant Cannabis dispensary to GROWING COMMUNITY group

To: <[duanestrawser@gmail.com](mailto:duanestrawser@gmail.com)>, "Reinette Senum" <[reinettesenum@gmail.com](mailto:reinettesenum@gmail.com)>

Cc: <[davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com](mailto:davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com)>, <[evansphelps@gmail.com](mailto:evansphelps@gmail.com)>, <[czechgirl63@gmail.com](mailto:czechgirl63@gmail.com)>

**Mayor Strawser and City Council Members**

**Nevada City Hall**

**[317 Broad Street](#)**

**[Nevada City, CA 95959](#)**

**Re: Support Growing Community for Medical Cannabis Dispensary**

**Dear Mayor Strawser and City Council Members,**

**As a 36 year resident of Nevada County on the outskirts of Nevada City, local business owner and employer for all of that time and participant in local politics and community activism, I am writing to encourage the Council to award its first medical cannabis dispensary permit to Growing Community. "Growing Community" is the only applicant that would serve patients, protect the environment, and give 100% of its net proceeds to local nonprofits that serve the community.**

**For these and many more reasons I hope you can see why this is the best possible solution for our community:**

**I am pleased that Growing Community is also 100% local. Its' volunteer Board of Directors are all Nevada County residents with deep community ties. The Board has also secured all its' financing from local philanthropists who support this mission. And it will be locally managed by Executive Director Paul Harton, the former General Manager of the BriarPatch.**

**Growing Community addresses the social and environmental impacts of cannabis use and cultivation in our community by giving the dispensary's profits directly to local nonprofits that provide environmental protections, social services for youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and more.**

**Growing Community seeks to protect the natural environment also by purchasing medical cannabis from local farmers committed to cultivating outdoor cannabis in a manner that strictly protects the land, water quality, fish and wildlife.**

**Growing Community is designed to be a full-service health and wellness center that will provide education and safe, legal access to high quality, locally grown medicinal cannabis for patients, and link to other holistic health services such as Ayurvedic medicine, massage therapy and herbal medicine.**

**Growing Community's location on Lower Grass Valley Road is ideal given the Council's direction. It is zoned light industrial at the end of a frontage road with no residential neighbors. Onsite managers will ensure that only qualified patients are served, prevent diversion and keep youth and the surrounding neighborhood safe. The Board is committed to being good neighbors and is working with the surrounding businesses to minimize impacts.**

**I urge the City Council to choose Growing Community for its first medical cannabis dispensary because it is run by local people, serves patients with medicine grown by local farmers committed to protecting the environment, and it will give its profits to local nonprofits rather than enrich outside investors.**

**Sincerely,**

**Bruce Beeley**

**Founder – General Manager**

**From:** Julie Carville [mailto:mtngypsy1@sbcglobal.net]

**Sent:** Friday, November 10, 2017 4:24 PM

**To:** Mayor Strawser <duanestrawser@gmail.com>

**Cc:** David Parker <davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com>; Evans Phelps <evansphelps@gmail.com>; Valerie Moberg <czechgirl73@gmail.com>; ReINETTE Senum <reinettesenum@gmail.com>; Paul Harton <harton.paul@gmail.com>; Amy Wolfson <Amy.Wolfson@nevadacityca.gov>

**Subject:** Support for awarding Growing Community for first medical cannabis dispensary

Mayor Strawser  
Nevada City Hall  
317 Broad Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

November 10, 2017

cc: Paul Harton, David Parker, Evans Phelps, Valerie Moberg, ReINETTE Senum

Re: I Support "Growing Community" for first Medical Cannabis Dispensary

Dear Mayor Strawser, Paul Harton, Amy Wolfson, and City Council Members,

I am a 29 year resident of Nevada City and own a home here and care about the quality of our community. I am writing to encourage the Council to award its first medical cannabis dispensary permit to Growing Community. because this applicant would benefit our community by serving patients locally, would address the social and environmental impacts of cannabis in a responsible way, and would donate 100% of its net proceeds to local nonprofits that serve our community and that provide environmental protections, social services for youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and more.

Its' volunteer Board of Directors are all Nevada County residents with deep community ties. The Board has also secured all its' financing from local philanthropists who support this mission. And it will be locally managed by Executive Director Paul Harton, the former General Manager of the BriarPatch. Growing Community seeks to protect the natural environment by purchasing medical cannabis from local farmers committed to cultivating outdoor cannabis in a manner that strictly protects the land, water quality, fish and wildlife. This is very important to me.

Growing Community is designed to be a full-service health and wellness center that will provide education and safe, legal access to high quality, locally grown medicinal cannabis for patients, and link to other holistic health services such as Ayurvedic medicine, massage therapy and herbal medicine.

Growing Community's location on Lower Grass Valley Road is ideal given the Council's direction. It is zoned light industrial at the end of a frontage road with no residential neighbors. Onsite managers will ensure that only qualified patients are served, prevent diversion and keep youth and the surrounding neighborhood safe. The Board is committed to being good neighbors and is working with the surrounding businesses to minimize impacts.

I urge the City Council to choose Growing Community for its first medical cannabis dispensary, because it is run by local people, serves patients with medicine grown by local farmers committed to protecting the environment, and it will give its profits to local nonprofits rather than enrich outside investors.

Sincerely,  
Julie Carville  
14582 Alderwood Way  
Nevada City (530 265-4741)



211 Commercial St Nevada City, CA 95959 530-470-8333

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Mayor Strawser and City Council Members  
Nevada City Hall  
317 Broad Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Support Growing Community for Medical Cannabis Dispensary

Dear Mayor Strawser and City Council Members,

As long-time residents of Nevada City and the owners of a downtown business, we are writing to strongly encourage the Council to award its first medical cannabis dispensary permit to Growing Community. With a strong local support system and its values firmly stated in its incorporating documents, we are confident Growing Community will effectively serve patients, work to protect the watershed through the growing practices it supports, and be responsive to the community's needs over time. We are also very excited about the public benefit model Growing Community is proposing that will give 100% of its net proceeds to local nonprofits that serve the community. As we understand it they will be the first dispensary of this kind in the country. We anticipate that they will become a model for other communities looking to serve cannabis patients, while enriching the community as a whole, rather than profiting individuals.

Growing Community addresses the social and environmental impacts of cannabis use and cultivation in our community by giving the dispensary's profits directly to local nonprofits that provide environmental protections, social services for youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and more.

Growing Community seeks to protect the natural environment also by purchasing medical cannabis from local farmers committed to cultivating outdoor cannabis in a manner that strictly protects the land, water quality, fish and wildlife.

Growing Community is designed to be a full-service health and wellness center that will provide education and safe, legal access to high quality, locally grown medicinal cannabis for patients, and link to other holistic health services such as Ayurvedic medicine, massage therapy and herbal medicine.

We urge the City Council to choose Growing Community for its first medical cannabis dispensary because it is run by local people, serves patients with medicine grown by local farmers committed to protecting the environment, and it will give its profits to local nonprofits rather than enrich individual investors.

Sincerely,

Shana Maziarz & Dave Cowie  
Co-owners, Three Forks Bakery & Brewing Co

**From:** Valerie Moberg [mailto:czechgirl63@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 11, 2017 7:43 PM  
**To:** Amy Wolfson <Amy.Wolfson@nevadacityca.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: cannabis dispensary comment

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Rondal Snodgrass" <[rondalsnodgrassconsultations@gmail.com](mailto:rondalsnodgrassconsultations@gmail.com)>  
Date: Nov 10, 2017 3:33 PM  
Subject: cannabis dispensary comment  
To: <[czechgirl63@gmail.com](mailto:czechgirl63@gmail.com)>  
Cc:

Dear Valerie,

I have a home based business in Nevada County, for the last six years, and I am 78 years old. My wife and I live only 5 minutes out of the city limits and Nevada City is our core location.

Please know that I strongly support Growing Community as the first licensed medical cannabis dispensary. What a novel and amazing idea.

Much of my career has been in land conservation and most often projects initiated by non-profit organizations. Here we have several non-profits dealing with public benefit needs and always struggling to get funds for operation. Let's take profits out of the cannabis business and put it directly into our community needs.

Let's keep it local.

Rondal

Rondal Snodgrass  
Conservation Land Consultant  
[707-496-8729](tel:707-496-8729)

Mayor Strawser and City Council Members  
Nevada City Hall  
317 Broad Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Support Growing Community for Medical Cannabis Dispensary

Dear Mayor Strawser and City Council Members,

I am writing regarding the upcoming decision to be made by the City Council in selecting who to award the only medical cannabis dispensary permit in the City. I want to encourage you to please make this award to the nonprofit, Growing Community. There are many reasons for this request, which I make in good conscience and with good reason. I am a citizen of Nevada County and of Nevada City having purchased my home here in 2010. I retired recently (1.5 years ago) and am just beginning to explore ways to use my skills in supporting community needs. My 28 year career with the California State University system provided considerable experience related to what was first the “cannabis problem” and later the “cannabis opportunity.” While a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering for 17 years at San Jose State University, I taught classes on watershed development, water quality, water and waste treatment, lake and river ecology to name a few, including best management practices to address nutrient, toxic chemical, human waste and other such contaminants of concern in rivers, lakes, Bays and the oceans. Later, as Associate Vice President of Research at CSU East Bay and finally as Dean of Research, Economic and Community Development at Humboldt State University (HSU), I worked with faculty, students, State and Federal agencies, nonprofits, and community members in identifying research opportunities ranging from poetry to energy, but often with a focus on natural resources. At HSU, I helped create the Institute for Interdisciplinary Marijuana Research, and along with the County Office of Economic Development, ran a 4-part panel series on the impacts of cannabis legalization on the local economy in Humboldt County. Series discussions, all standing room only, included farming practices, retail opportunities, research needs, and marketing strategies. We brought State regulators to workshops to discuss not only the deleterious impacts of unregulated cannabis production, but also the benefits of regulation and oversight especially as related to impacts on wildlife, fire safety, and water quality and of course, the local economy. The region was grappling with all these issues, and attempting to do so while recognizing all aspects of the issue.

The impacts associated with cannabis, positive and negative, are local impacts in a region where the plant is grown, harvested, processed, and distributed such as in many Northern California counties including ours. Given this, I encourage the Council to award its first medical cannabis dispensary permit to Growing Community. Growing Community is the only applicant that would serve patients, protect the environment, and give 100% of its net proceeds to local nonprofits that serve the community. Following are more details on reasons to support Growing Community as the applicant of choice:

Growing Community is 100% local. Its' volunteer Board of Directors are all Nevada County residents with deep community ties. The Board has also secured all its' financing from local philanthropists who support their mission, and it will be locally managed by Executive Director Paul Harton, the former General Manager of the BriarPatch.

Growing Community addresses the social and environmental impacts of cannabis use and cultivation in our community by giving the dispensary's profits directly to local nonprofits that provide environmental protections, social services for youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and more.

Growing Community seeks to protect the natural environment by purchasing medical cannabis from local farmers committed to cultivating outdoor cannabis in a manner that strictly protects the land, water quality, fish and wildlife.

Growing Community is designed to be a full-service health and wellness center that will provide education and safe, legal access to high quality, locally grown medicinal cannabis for patients, and link to other health services.

Growing Community's location on Lower Grass Valley Road is ideal given the Council's direction. It is zoned light industrial at the end of a frontage road with no residential neighbors. There is plenty of parking as well. Onsite managers will ensure that only qualified patients are served, prevent diversion and keep youth and the surrounding neighborhood safe. The Board is committed to being good neighbors and is working with surrounding businesses to minimize impacts.

I urge the City Council to choose Growing Community for its first medical cannabis dispensary because it is run by local people, serves patients with medicine grown by local farmers committed to protecting the environment, and it will give its profits to local nonprofits rather than enrich outside investors.

Sincerely,

Rhea L. Williamson, Ph.D.

**From:** Mike & Barbara Getz [mailto:mandbgetz@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 1:33 PM

**To:** duanestrawser@gmail.com; davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com; evansphelps@gmail.com; czechgirl63@gmail.com; reinettesenum@gmail.com; harton.paul@gmail.com; Amy Wolfson <Amy.Wolfson@nevadacityca.gov>

**Subject:** pot

Barbara and I support Growing Community's application to be Nevada City's first Medical Cannabis Dispensary. We hope you do too.

Mike and Barbara

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Mike Getz  
10179 Elliott Way  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**From:** Jeff Kane <[jeffkane@theunion.net](mailto:jeffkane@theunion.net)>

**Date:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 2:08 PM

**To:** "\"[duanestrawser@gmail.com](mailto:duanestrawser@gmail.com)"; [davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com](mailto:davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com); [evansphelps@gmail.com](mailto:evansphelps@gmail.com); [czechgirl63@gmail.com](mailto:czechgirl63@gmail.com); [reinettesenum@gmail.com](mailto:reinettesenum@gmail.com); [harton.paul@gmail.com](mailto:harton.paul@gmail.com);

Amy.Wolfson\"@nevadacityca.gov" <"[duanestrawser@gmail.com](mailto:duanestrawser@gmail.com)"; [davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com](mailto:davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com); [evansphelps@gmail.com](mailto:evansphelps@gmail.com); [czechgirl63@gmail.com](mailto:czechgirl63@gmail.com); [reinettesenum@gmail.com](mailto:reinettesenum@gmail.com); [harton.paul@gmail.com](mailto:harton.paul@gmail.com);

Amy.Wolfson\"@nevadacityca.gov>

**Subject:** Dispensary permit

Dear NC City Council Members:

As a 35-year resident of Nevada City. I'm proud of much here, especially how we care for one another. I've known many of Growing Community's board members and advisors for decades, and highly respect them. That's why I encourage you to award a cannabis dispensary permit to that organization. In my mind, its plan to give all its proceeds to local non-profits outweighs every other consideration.

Respectfully,

Jeff Kane MD

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Reynolds [mailto:susanbr@sierraemail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 12:03 PM

To: DuaneStrawser@gmail.com; oldproracer@gmail.com; Amy Wolfson  
<Amy.Wolfson@nevadacityca.gov>

Subject: Letter in support of the Growing Community MMJ Dispensary application

Dear Members of the City Council and Planning Commission,

If we have to have a MMJ dispensary inside the tiny Nevada City Limits, then I support the Growing Community Dispensary in their current application for the following reasons:

-This is the only application that has exclusively and purposefully long-time, current Nevada City residents as the people who will be running it and employed by it. I believe this is important because they are well known to Nevada City residents as reliable, responsible citizens so they have good reputations to uphold. Further, they know our town first hand, so they will have the best perspective to make choices that will include the interests of all of the citizens of Nevada City.

-This is the only application that states that they will give 100% of its profits to area non-profit organizations. I believe this is important because our local non-profits serve our communities in many needed ways. I believe that the presence of the MMJ dispensary and ancillary marijuana businesses will require more work by our non-profits, especially those that serve of our youth and families. This MMJ Dispensary is the only one that has purposefully opted out of a personal profit motive in favor of gifting the community.

-This is the only application that is not located in the heart of the Seven Hills business district. I believe this is important because Seven Hills is a small area where families and youth are concentrated as they gather for the nearby Kuk Sul Won studio, the Laura Bishop Ballet studio, and where students of both Seven Hills Intermediate School and Deer Creek Elementary School walk/bike to and from school. This is the only MMJ Dispensary that is not within short walking distance of the SPD Parking lot where elementary and intermediate school students and families gather after school for pick-up every weekday afternoon.

Thank you for listening and may you make the best choice for all of our residents and businesses located in our tiny Nevada City limits.

Susan Reynolds

Nevada City Resident for 20 years

**WAY YUM SUSHI**  
**570 Searls Ave.**  
**Nevada City, CA 95959**  
**530 265-4300**  
**7 Hills District**

11/1/2017

To: Amy Wolfson, Mayor Duane Strawser, Vice Mayor David Parker, Evan Phelps, Valerie Moberg and Reinetta Senum,

*Thanks for taking the time to read my input, I have not been a huge supporter of recreational Marijuana in the past but I have seen amazing results for friends and family that are users of Medicinal Cannabis. I have lived in Nevada County since 1980 and have been in business in Nevada Country for 20 years this year. I have researched the different locations of the Dispensaries that are making plans to open in our county. I do not like the locations of any of them.*

*As I was researching this issue I found out about Growing Community for Medical Cannabis Dispensary. I must say I am very impressed with every aspect of their plan. Most of all they have the best location picked out. They are out of main stream businesses so kids and anti users do not have to tolerate the people and the issues that some in the community are griping about.*

*Their plan is to protect the environment which is so important to me and 100 percent of their net profit goes back into the community. Who does that? Understanding who is running this non profit, Paul Harton is another reason I fully support this Dispensary. Paul has been a community member that is all about making things right for the people. I watched him in action every time I did a local fundraiser here in our community and always had his full support.*

*The Growing Communities motto supports everything this community thrives for in staying local and giving back.*

*Thanks for your time,*

*Laura Thorne, owner and operator of Way Yum Sushi since 1997  
Please call me with and concerns or questions at 530 263-1913*

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**From:** John Tomnay [mailto:johnTomnay@aol.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 12:30 PM

**To:** davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com; duanestrawser@gmail.com; czechgirl63@gmail.com; Amy Wolfson <Amy.Wolfson@nevadacityca.gov>

**Cc:** Evans Phelps <evansphelps@gmail.com>; reinettesenum@gmail.com; harton.paul@gmail.com

**Subject:** Medical Dispensary

Mayor Strawser and City Council Members

Nevada City Hall

317 Broad Street

Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Support Growing Community for Medical Cannabis Dispensary

Dear Mayor Strawser and City Council Members,

As a new resident and homeowner , I am writing to encourage the Council to award its first medical cannabis dispensary permit to Growing Community. Growing Community is the only applicant that would serve patients, protect the environment, and give 100% of its net proceeds to local nonprofits that serve the community.

I am pleased that Growing Community is also 100% local. Its' volunteer Board of Directors are all Nevada County residents with deep community ties. The Board has also secured all its' financing from local philanthropists who support this mission. And it will be locally managed by Executive Director Paul Harton, the former General Manager of the BriarPatch.

Growing Community addresses the social and environmental impacts of cannabis use and cultivation in our community by giving the dispensary's profits directly to local nonprofits that provide environmental protections, social services for youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and more.

Growing Community seeks to protect the natural environment also by purchasing medical cannabis from local farmers committed to cultivating outdoor cannabis in a manner that strictly protects the land, water quality, fish and wildlife.

Growing Community is designed to be a full-service health and wellness center that will provide education and safe, legal access to high quality, locally grown medicinal cannabis for patients, and link to other holistic health services such as Ayurvedic medicine, massage therapy and herbal medicine.

Growing Community's location on Lower Grass Valley Road is ideal given the Council's direction. It is zoned light industrial at the end of a frontage road with no residential neighbors. Onsite managers will ensure that only qualified patients are served, prevent diversion and keep youth and the surrounding neighborhood safe. The Board is committed to being good neighbors and is working with the surrounding businesses to minimize impacts.

I urge the City Council to choose Growing Community for its first medical cannabis dispensary because it is run by local people, serves patients with medicine grown by local farmers committed to protecting the environment, and it will give its profits to local nonprofits rather than enrich outside investors.

Sincerely,

John Tomnay

202 Prospect St, Nevada City .

John Tomnay  
Apex Office Centers

**From:** John Regan [mailto:john@smartcampaignsca.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 11:16 AM  
**To:** John Regan <john@smartcampaignsca.com>  
**Subject:** Support for Growing Green

Mayor Strawser and City Council Members  
Nevada City Hall  
317 Broad Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Support Growing Community for Medical Cannabis Dispensary

Dear Mayor Strawser and City Council Members,

**As a 20-year resident and business owner in Nevada City and surrounding area, I am writing to encourage the Council to award its first medical cannabis dispensary permit to Growing Community. Growing Community is the only applicant that would serve patients, protect the environment, and give 100% of its net proceeds to local nonprofits that serve the community.**

I am pleased that Growing Community is also 100% local. Its volunteer Board of Directors are all Nevada County residents with deep community ties. The Board has also secured all its financing from local philanthropists who support this mission. And it will be locally managed by Executive Director Paul Harton, the former General Manager of the BriarPatch.

Growing Community addresses the well-known social and environmental impacts of cannabis use and cultivation in our community by giving the dispensary's profits directly to local nonprofits that provide environmental protections, social services for youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and more.

Growing Community seeks to protect the natural environment also by purchasing medical cannabis from local farmers committed to cultivating outdoor cannabis in a manner that strictly protects the land, water quality, fish and wildlife.

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I urge the City Council to choose Growing Community for its first medical cannabis dispensary because it is run by local people, serves patients with medicine grown by local farmers committed to protecting the environment, and it will give its profits to local nonprofits rather than enrich outside investors.

Sincerely,

John Regan  
16 Turpentine Drive

Nevada City, CA 95959  
530.265.5255

**From:** Janet Peake [mailto:janetpeake@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 14, 2017 3:33 PM  
**To:** Amy Wolfson <Amy.Wolfson@nevadacityca.gov>  
**Subject:** cannabis dispensary

Mayor Strawser and City Council Members  
Nevada City Hall  
317 Broad Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Support Growing Community for Medical Cannabis Dispensary

Dear Mayor Strawser and City Council Members,

As a 25 year resident of Nevada County and a business owner for as long with an office right on Broad Street, Nevada City, I am writing to encourage the Council to award its first medical cannabis dispensary permit to Growing Community. Growing Community is the only applicant that would serve patients, protect the environment, and give 100% of its net proceeds to local nonprofits that serve the community.

I am pleased that Growing Community is also 100% local. Its' volunteer Board of Directors are all Nevada County residents with deep community ties. The Board has also secured all its' financing from local philanthropists who support this mission. And it will be locally managed by Executive Director Paul Harton, the former General Manager of the BriarPatch.

Growing Community addresses the social and environmental impacts of cannabis use and cultivation in our community by giving the dispensary's profits directly to local nonprofits that provide environmental protections, social services for youth, elderly, people with disabilities, and more.

Growing Community seeks to protect the natural environment also by purchasing medical cannabis from local farmers committed to cultivating outdoor cannabis in a manner that strictly protects the land, water quality, fish and wildlife.

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I urge the City Council to choose Growing Community for its first medical cannabis dispensary because it is run by local people, serves patients with medicine grown by local farmers

committed to protecting the environment, and it will give its profits to local nonprofits rather than enrich outside investors.

Sincerely,

Janet D. Peake, MBA, CFP, EA  
Financial Advisor

Mayor Strawser and City Council Members  
Nevada City Hall  
317 Broad Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: Support Growing Community for Medical Cannabis Dispensary

Dear Mayor Strawser and City Council Members,

As citizens of Nevada City, we are writing to encourage the Council to award its first medical cannabis dispensary permit to Growing Community. The benefits of awarding the permit to Growing Community are numerous and undoubtedly others have illustrated these benefits already.

The fact that Growing Community will donate 100% of its net proceeds back to our community is a benefit that is admirable and revolutionary. California is awash with cannabis tycoons who have become extremely wealthy through the cannabis industry. And while the industry as a whole may benefit communities through increased tax revenue, economic spending, and similar benefits, these secondary benefits are only incidental. As far as we know, no other storefront dispensary contributes 100% of its net proceeds to other non-profit organizations.

Not only does Growing Community stand to bolster very important non-profit organizations in our community, it also stands to serve as a model in the State of California: To show other communities that the cannabis industry can truly encompass a local, holistic, and altruistic model that serves a higher purpose than simply enriching outside investors (no pun intended).

By awarding the dispensary permit to Growing Community, this City Council has the ability to direct the proceeds of the proposed dispensary directly back into our community. Council members also have a rare and unique opportunity to broadcast throughout California how innovative and amazing our community is and to lead the way for other communities contemplating dispensary permits.

Sincerely,

Athena Aronow and Paul Johnson

\*\*\*Athena Aronow and Paul Johnson live at 513 Nimrod Street in Nevada City. Athena and Paul returned to Nevada City in 2010 after spending time in the Bay Area. Athena is a native of Nevada County who grew up in the house where she and Paul are raising their family. Athena works in Nevada City as a wedding photographer and Paul works in Nevada City as an attorney for the County of Nevada and also is a board member of Community Legal.

From: Lewis Sitzer [mailto:lewsitzer@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 6:32 PM

To: duanestrawser@gmail.com; davidsparkyparker569@gmail.com; evansphelps@gmail.com; czechgirl63@gmail.com; reinette senum <reinettesenum@gmail.com>; harton.paul@gmail.com; Amy Wolfson <Amy.Wolfson@nevadacityca.gov>

Subject: approval of Medical Cannabis Dispensary in Nevada City

Dear Council Members, soon you will be selecting one of three applicants for the new Cannabis Dispensary in Nevada City. I have lived here since 1971, been on many boards (Nevada City School Trustee, Resource Conservation District, BriarPatch, United Way, Council for Non-Profit Leadership, and NCTV). One vital lesson I have learned is to make decisions and selections based on who you know and the reputation they have developed over the years. In other words, those you can trust.

We still live in a small town. Look over the three applicants and select the organization with the best persons involved, the most trustworthy, honest and reliable. I don't know two of the applicants but I can say that, in my opinion, both the personalities and the goals of the organization suggest that Growing Community both holds the interests of our community to heart and is supported by folks you know and can trust.

Sincerely, Lew Sitzer

10560 Whispering Oaks Lane

Nevada City, CA. 95959

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Kristin Welch" <[mamamadrones@gmail.com](mailto:mamamadrones@gmail.com)>

Date: Nov 15, 2017 9:22 AM

Subject: Support Growing Community

To: "[czechgirl63@gmail.com](mailto:czechgirl63@gmail.com)" <[czechgirl63@gmail.com](mailto:czechgirl63@gmail.com)>

Cc:

Mayor Strawser and City Council Members

Nevada City Hall

[317 Broad Street](#)

[Nevada City, CA 95959](#)

Re:Support Growing Community for Medical Cannabis Dispensary

Dear Mayor Strawser and City Council Members,

As the owner of Mama Madrone's eco-emporium at [307 Broad St.](#), I am writing to encourage the Council to award its first medical cannabis dispensary permit to Growing Community. Growing Community is the only applicant that would serve patients, protect the environment, and give 100% of its net proceeds to local nonprofits that serve our local community.

I believe Growing Community to be a collection of individuals who bring a vast background of successful accomplishments to the table and who have already proven their dedication to this community. Teaming up to form Growing Community is a savvy, holistic and creative business approach that could very well set an example to other towns of the positive ripple effect a community-centric dispensary could create.

The acquired location proposed for the Growing Community dispensary seems very well located at the end of Lower Grass Valley Road. This location offers discretion and is set away from schools and children.

I urge the City Council to choose Growing Community for its first medical cannabis dispensary because it is run by local people, serves patients with medicine grown by local farmers committed to protecting the environment, and it will give its profits to local nonprofits rather than enrich outside investors.

Sincerely,

Kristin Welch,

Mama Madrone's eco-emporium

[307 Broad St. Nevada City](#)