

James Feenan

From: Leslie Gravier <lesgravier@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2023 5:02 PM
To: pbscommissions
Subject: Case # Ap_2023-0015 Kure Wellness

Mendocino County

JUN 23 2023

Planning & Building Services

Good Afternoon my name is Leslie Gravier,

I'm born and raised in Mendocino County, with both sides of my family being in this county for many, many generations. I am also mom to Russell Green and the CFO of Kure Wellness.

I wanted to share what Wikipedia states Mendocino County is noted for.

“ The county is noted for its distinctive [Pacific Ocean](#) coastline, its location along California's "[Lost Coast](#)", [Redwood forests](#), [wine production](#), [microbrews](#), and [liberal](#) views about the use of [cannabis](#) and [support for its legalization](#). In 2009, it was estimated that roughly one-third of the economy was based on the cultivation of marijuana.”

Wow that's a pretty big statement estimating 1/3 of the economy was based on Cannabis cultivation. With that in mind I ask what are the issues at hand if any in approving the drive-thru at 800 Lake Mendocino Dr.? As you look at the empty storefronts in all of the small towns that make up this beautiful place we all call home I have to wonder what Mendocino Counties business plan is and how are you the zoning commission supporting the businesses? The cannabis industry's years of economic support like it or not right or wrong still are facts that are visual to see within our county. Are you folks aware that there is a new proposed cannabis drive thru opening up off of West road North of Ukaih at the Coyote Valley gas station? It's my understanding there will be no tax dollars coming into the county from this business yet the staff recommendation is to deny our County revenue driving drive-thru. This makes no sense to me.

As I read through the packet presented here today I found it to be completely disregarding and direct discrimination of disabled and immune compromised folks who need this option.

Not to mention the economy and our community as a whole. It appears to me that the mind set here is, we will go through the motions, have a meeting and deny it. I challenge you to prove me wrong here. Especially since the only resolution option staff has included in the packet is the last page which is to deny it. Where is the resolution to approve it?

While the business model clearly was to do all legal cannabis activities at the 800 Lake Mendocino Drive location, and the industry was in formation, Mendocino County and the State were creating new laws and ordinances by the seat of their pants as legal cannabis businesses were doing their best to comply. We at Kure Wellness were giving the community a clean legal path to access cannabis that included the drive thru with clone pick up, **plants that were being** grown and **flowers** processed to the retail store for walk-ins.

Fast forward to Covid times and our country is in a state of turmoil. Letters are emailed in all directions with Mendocino County and the State. The California Department of Cannabis Control gave Kure Wellness the go ahead. We set company policies and procedures in place to safely comply and process customers through the drive-thru. Disabled and Immune compromised patients quickly learn of this much needed option. Most rely on cannabis as their medicine. And many use it as a replacement for Opioids. Chemo patients come from out of County some for a ride with their caregivers others just take a drive to get what they want and to have that one on one conversation with our knowledgeable staff.

As always the rules are different for the cannabis Industry as we navigate through Covid times although nothing will change for months we are required to every single month email the county for a stamp of approval to continue the drive-thru. Why? Call it power and ego driven perhaps, Cannabis hating perhaps but definitely not logical. Nonetheless this task is so important that they threaten to shut us down in the middle of Covid if we forget to request to keep the drive-thru open. Keep in mind this is while the doors to most County offices are closed up tight and most county employees are working from home and or laid off.

Months go by not one incident. It seems all is going along fine, emails exchanged and drive-thru open. Time lapses and in Covid mode and complete chaos everywhere we miss a couple emails by 2-3 days and get a threatening letter from the County stating if we miss again they will shut us down.

Are you kidding me? In the middle of Covid!! What is the real story behind that? Were each of the Pharmacies in the county told they had to request an ok every month during Covid to continue their drive-thru? I'm certain you all know the answer to that. If each month we were doing something completely different from the past month or issues were arising I would understand the need to get approval, but we weren't. We were just trying to stay alive and help the community that we love and that love us. It was a crazy time, staff out sick, families losing family members, people afraid to work, schools shut down and Covid concerns everywhere. Russell and I set alarms on our phones as reminders, and with so much compliance within the Industry, running multiple businesses often short staffed and the state of the world, we once again inadvertently missed the email. I thought Russell sent it, he thought I sent it and neither of us had sent it timely. So we find ourselves with a letter from Vandy telling us to shut it down due to a late request for approval. To me this was a complete disregard to the safety of our patients, our staff and community.

Here is where the **worst** part of this comes into play for me. Not only have I worked in the Medical field for nearly 10 years and I know the treatment and illnesses that cannabis can help but now I found myself on the phone telling those very same people that this necessary option is no longer available to them. While they cried and begged us to open it back up the thought of losing our license due to the lack of consideration at the county level, we just couldn't do it. The chemo patients that drove over from Lake County, up from Santa Rosa and the North County to come through the drive-thru were some of the toughest. I Am forever grateful to have met them. We were one of their happy places while on their not so fortunate travels in life. To have to tell them our drive-thru was shut down because we missed an **email** was ludicrous. They relied on this service for so many reasons not only being immune compromised but for help with appetite, pain and to keep cognitive function (without pain pills) to enjoy their family and friends while perhaps in their last phase of life. Those people are who brought me to tears. All because we failed to ask for approval every 30 days. Obviously it is needed.

Should you deny the drive-thru, I would hope none of you ever find yourselves or your family members in need of this much needed option where you would have found a smiling face with a ton of knowledge and compassion waiting to serve you when you needed it the most.

For our community and economy please approve our drive-thru at 800 Lake Mendocino Drive.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely Leslie Gravier