

Lisa Wolfe

From:
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 1:39 PM
To: Lisa Wolfe
Subject: Item 15 B

Hi Lisa, The following message was sent to all council members and the City Manager.

Even though we do not seek direct city support ourselves we appreciate whatever can be done to help other Benicia businesses.

Our essential business has suffered losses of revenues and profitability but we expect to be able to remain viable for the foreseeable future.

Steve Moore



BENICIA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
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July 21, 2020

Mayor Patterson
Vice Mayor Strawbridge
Council Members Campbell, Largaespada & Young
City of Benicia
250 East L Street
Benicia, CA 94510

RE: AGENDA ITEM 15.B – ADDITIONAL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE DUE TO COVID-19

Dear Mayor Patterson, Vice Mayor Strawbridge, Council Members Campbell, Largaespada & Young:

The Benicia Chamber of Commerce is in full support of the Additional Business Assistance Programs in its entirety to be voted on during the July 21th Council Meeting.

The Chamber appreciates that the Council has provided several programs to assist our Small Business Community this past few months. While we were extremely disappointed that consideration for the Utility/Developmental fees were excluded from the June 16th Council Meeting, we are very pleased to see it on the agenda so that it has the opportunity to further help our struggling Small Business Community.

With the recent closure by the orders of the Governor, this assistance is even more crucial than before. Businesses have once again been forced to close their doors against their will. With the outcry of assistance to the state legislature, some breathing room has been provided to our hard-hit salons, barber shops and personal cares servicers. But this is far from what any of our businesses need to survive. We need all the help we can get to navigate through these unprecedented times.

The Chamber is urging our City Council to vote YES and approve the measure before you. We understand that there is concern regarding a possible shortfall in the City's revenue after you approve these measures. We recommend supplementing a portion of that shortfall from the reserve accounts. This current state of emergency is a prime candidate to transfer those monies from the reserve account.

We are also asking that our City Council reconsider Councilman Largaespada's original May 26th proposal for the BOOST program. The Chamber is hopeful that the City will agree and fund an additional \$100,000 to \$200,000 to the BOOST program to further stimulate and provide the financial assistance needed.

Without the further assistance throughout this pandemic, what will be the state of our Downtown? Southampton Shopping Center? Columbus Parkway? Solano Square? and every other business plaza? These are real concerns that our Small Business Community and Residents have. These continued measures will provide some relief to our Business Community and provide some hope as we move forward together.

Respectfully,

Chris Ferrucci
Chairman of the Board

Board of Directors

Chris Ferrucci,
Chair of the Board

Bob Triglia,
Vice Chair of the Board

Monica Vargas,
Vice Chair of Finance

Todd Bigelow,
Immediate Past Chair

Bill Cawley, III

Aaron Jordan

Jenny Lind

Steve McClure

Lisa McVeigh

Carey Morgan

Sydney Riley

Rich Rodriguez

Tom Stanley

Deborah Wojtala

Jennifer Bergstrom

From: Jennifer Bergstrom
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:38 AM
To: Jennifer Bergstrom
Subject: FW: Council agenda item 15C

From: Heather G
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 12:04 AM
Subject: Council agenda item 15C

Re: City Council Agenda Item 15.C - CONSIDER ADOPTION OF AN ADVISORY MEASURE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2020 BALLOT ALLOWING VOTERS TO EXPRESS THEIR PREFERENCES REGARDING RETAIL CANNABIS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE CITY OF BENICIA

Dear Council Members Cambell and Largaespada, Vice Mayor Strawbridge

As a 45 year resident of Benicia, I barely recognize our town any more. Family values have taken a back seat to revenue generating (which remains to be seen) pot dispensaries. One apparently isn't enough and if Steve Young had his way, they would be next to schools and homes, with no buffer zones. Who is he working for??? Not the families of Benicia, I think he has made that clear.

The three of you are the only members of the Council who actually care about Benicia and not their personal agenda. I implore you to vote against this. Why does the proposed language not include a) If we want even one cannabis dispensary in town and b) If we want the buffer zones around ALL dispensaries in town to keep them away from children?

Thank you, Vice Mayor Strawbridge for the clear and helpful opposing view on your website.

Respectfully yours,

Heather Graves

Benicia Ca 94510

Lisa Wolfe

From: Cathy Hampton
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 12:46 PM
To: Lionel Largaespada; Christina Strawbridge; Elizabeth Patterson; Steve Young; Tom Campbell
Cc: Lisa Wolfe
Subject: Enough is enough

Dear City Council members,

Why are you beating a dead horse? You got what you wanted with a cannabis dispensary in a residential area and now you are looking to get MORE? I understand you are just looking to see how many residents actually want more dispensaries, but to want to block the buffers that were added after so many meetings and so much work is just mean spirited and irresponsible.

The dispensary hasn't given this city anything yet with regards to sales and potential revenue. Why would you want to move forward with more? You truly need to take a step back and look at what you are doing.

I've said many times that your moral compass is off balance and this just proves yet another point.

I would think that with 57 cases of Covid-19 in this small town, you would have something else to worry about besides getting more locations for cannabis.

Set your priorities. You are elected officials and you need to take care of ALL of us, not just your own agendas.

Cathy Hampton

Ms. Wolfe, please put this in the official record. Thank you.