

Dear Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council,

The Cannabis Consumer Policy Council (CCPC) is a coalition of cannabis advocates, veterans, athletes, labor leaders, business, and public policy experts dedicated to empowering and protecting all cannabis consumers in today's post-legalization era.

In light of the recent pandemic declaration, we are writing to you today on behalf of the residents of your community who are also cannabis patients and consumers.

In addition to the safety restrictions imposed by Governor Newsom over the past several days, currently, the strictest order for shelter in place is in the Bay Area Cities and Counties of San Jose, San Leandro, Santa Cruz County, Oakland, Monterey County, Berkeley, Alameda County and San Francisco.

Importantly, all of these jurisdictions listed have chosen *to consider cannabis businesses as essential services akin to groceries and prescription medications*. We would like to encourage all jurisdictions in the State of California to opt for a similar designation for the following reasons:

- Consumers and medical cannabis patients need access to their medicine in light of impending shelter in place orders, This is particularly important to patients suffering from illnesses that suppress their immune system as well as anxiety and PTSD during these unprecedented times.
- Consumers and medical cannabis patients need to work with their dispensaries and delivery services to forecast their medicinal needs for the next 30 days so retailers can make thoughtful buying decisions in the days to come.
- Importantly, if jurisdictions do not keep shops open, patients will be forced to go to the illicit market, which is exponentially more risky and needlessly puts a further burden on public safety.

For these reasons, we are asking you to help us protect our patients, consumers, residents, and businesses. In the interest of local control, doing so could prevent a State mandate to remain open and the jurisdictions maintain their autonomy. Importantly, this can be done by simply *not* taking action to close dispensaries.

Please feel free to contact Randi L. Knott, Director of Local Government Affairs at (916) 216-5179 or rknott@join-ccpc.org if you would like any additional information or have any questions about this request. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nate Bradley, Executive Director

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