

08/26/2024

To: Delaware Ohio City Council Members

From: Mark Smiles

193 N Sandusky Street, Delaware, OH 43015

Re: CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 24-70

Dear Council Members,

I am writing today to express my deep disapproval of Ordinance No. 24-70, an ordinance placing a two-year moratorium on adult use cannabis operators, cultivators, processors, and retail dispensaries within the City of Delaware and declaring an emergency.

As City resident and owner of two successful downtown Delaware businesses (The Greater Gouda & The Rutherford Café) the passage of this ordinance makes no sense for Delaware or its residents and puts the community at an economic disadvantage when compared to neighboring communities and/or unincorporated areas.

Cannabis use has existed in the community for at least the past 60 years and Ohio voters finally acknowledged that along with alcohol and cigarettes that it was better to regulate and tax it, than continue the illegal shadow production/distribution/sales of the past.

As with alcohol and tobacco sales, the State of Ohio has adopted regulations that will ensure the safe and efficient distribution of this now legal product and it is not council's job to second guess the will of its voters or the State by adding additional barriers of entry above those that exist for alcohol and/or tobacco.

It has been a running joke in our family for the last eight years that if Ohio ever legalized cannabis, we would open "The Higher Gouda" above "The Greater Gouda". In reality, this is not something we are interested in doing, but if we were serious, then I would expect the city to welcome the new business with open arms and enjoy the added jobs and tax revenue it would create for the community.

It took one year and 45 days to construct the Empire State Building in NYC. It is surely a less daunting task to rework any paper issues regarding the implementation of local cannabis operators, cultivators, processors, and retail dispensaries within the City of Delaware.

The city has already had nine months to prepare for this, but if it needs a little more time then I would recommend that you amend the ordinance to a period not to exceed sixth months.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Smiles