

DAY OF HEARING SUBMISSIONS

Item # 7



August 1, 2025

Department of Cannabis Regulation
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE GRANTING OF A CANNABIS DISPENSARY LICENSE FOR SWEET GRASS ENTERPRISES (APPLICATION NO. 320051) AT 2181 VENICE BOULEVARD

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the granting of a cannabis dispensary license for Sweet Grass Enterprises (Application No. 320051) at 2181 Venice Boulevard. Having closely reviewed the public testimony from the recent hearing, it is abundantly clear that this proposed dispensary presents numerous and significant issues that directly threaten the safety, character, and quality of life of our residents.

The overwhelming sentiment from the community is one of deep apprehension and justified alarm. Residents and stakeholders, including those from the United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council, have articulated a consistent set of concerns that cannot be ignored.

Firstly, the proposed dispensary raises profound **public safety and crime** concerns. The community fears an increase in criminal activity, including robbery and aggravated assault, due to the presence of large amounts of cash and cannabis on the premises. There are also grave concerns about increased gang activity, loitering, and the exacerbation of existing issues with unhoused individuals and abandoned vehicles in the immediate vicinity. The location is directly across the street from an existing liquor store, which already contributes to public nuisance, only compounding the real potential for nuisances and crime.

Secondly, the impact on **traffic hazards and accidents** at the already perilous intersection of Hobart and Venice Boulevard is an immense concern. This intersection is notorious for frequent and dangerous accidents, often due to speeding and impaired driving. Introducing a cannabis dispensary, and perhaps impaired customers attempting to navigate this complex intersection, would be a reckless decision that will undoubtedly lead to an increase in collisions and endanger the lives of our residents, pedestrians, and cyclists.

Furthermore, the community regularly voiced significant apprehension regarding the **quality of life issues** that this dispensary would introduce or exacerbate. Residents anticipate strong marijuana odors permeating their homes and public spaces, and fear an increase in public marijuana smoking. The current state of the property's exterior, with documented, ongoing occurrences of trash, loitering, and individuals sitting or lying on sidewalks, is already a source of community frustration. There is a well-founded belief



that these problems will only intensify with the operation of a dispensary, further degrading the neighborhood's aesthetic and sense of security.

It is also crucial to acknowledge the community's concerns regarding the **incompatibility of this business**. Concerns about the anticipated strong marijuana odor, public smoking in the vicinity, and proximity to schools should be a serious consideration of the commission. The dispensary's close proximity to schools and the existing presence of a liquor store and another marijuana dispensary nearby, along with others along Venice Boulevard, suggest an oversaturation of inebriating substances in the public domain.

Moreover, the United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council has highlighted serious issues of non-compliance with existing city regulations, specifically concerning the property's status within an HPOZ and CPIO overlay zone. Features like razor wire, as noted by residents, simply do not align with the established aesthetic and charm of our historic district. The presence of unapproved exterior modifications, such as barbed wire and window bars, are a clear violation of the CPIO.

In light of the compelling and deeply held concerns articulated by my constituents, I urge the Department of Cannabis Regulation to **deny** the cannabis dispensary license for Sweet Grass Enterprises at 2181 Venice Boulevard. The potential negative impacts on public safety, traffic, and the overall quality of life in this community far outweigh any perceived benefits. We must prioritize the well-being and security of our residents above all else.

Thank you for your careful consideration of these vital community concerns. Should you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact my staff member, Hakeem Parke-Davis or call my office at (213) 473-7010.

Sincerely,

HEATHER HUTT
Councilwoman, 10th District
HH:aw:hp:era