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JUDICIARY

October 5, 2018

Howard A. Zucker, M.D., Commissioner
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Commissioner Zucker:

This letter is regarding a proposal by MedMen Enterprises to relocate its existing medical marijuana dispensary from the present site in a primarily business and commercial area to a new location in Manhasset, Long Island, close to residences, schools and a day care center.

Residents close to the Northern Boulevard location have contacted me with understandable concerns about the move and the fact that they have had little opportunity to provide input and get answers to their legitimate questions. I agree with these concerns.

One reason that I have heard cited for the move is that the new location, just a few miles from the existing facility, is more convenient for MedMen's customers. But such a short distance hardly seems to justify the potential traffic, security, safety and other quality of life impacts that may be borne by residential neighbors.

It is the responsibility of the state Health Commissioner to approve the operation of medical marijuana dispensaries that meet specific requirements including safety and security, among others, while the Town of North Hempstead, in this case, maintains final authority to determine if the proposed facility meets requirements of local law.

I am requesting that DOH convene a public hearing to give information to concerned neighbors and an opportunity to get answers to their questions concerning, but not limited to security procedures, hours of operation, parking, lighting, waste disposal, signage and traffic impacts, to name just a few.

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According to published reports, representatives of MedMen plan to meet with at least one community group, but as the state authority responsible for approving its application, DOH is in a far better position—indeed has an obligation—to respond to the public’s concerns and help inform decisions that still must be made by town leaders.

Please be assured that I stand ready to assist in any way that I can. Thank you in advance for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Elaine Phillips
Senator, 7th District

cc: Judy Bosworth, Supervisor, Town of North Hempstead
Richard Bentley, President, Council of Greater Manhasset Civic Associations