From: Clerk of the Board Office
To: COBSupport@mendocinocounty.org
Date: 12/3/2018 5:04 PM
Subject: Fwd: re: 12/04/18 BOS mtg

>>> John McCowen 12/03/18 17:04 >>>

FYI - BOS correspondence regarding cannabis issues
>>> Laura Clein <koalaura18@yahoo.com> 12/3/2018 1:04 PM >>>
Dear Board of Supervisors –
My thanks for the attention you bring to all matters affecting Mendocino County. For many reasons, my focus in writing to you is as a stakeholder in the cannabis industry. I have been a medical marijuana patient for 15 years & my husband has a permitted 10,000 sq.ft outdoor commercial cannabis farm in Covelo. We grow high quality plant medicine with organic & regenerative practices, no chemicals, not even organic chemicals, like many of the farmers in our community.
My guess is that you are receiving many letters, emails & calls from Colveo cultivators re: Cordovacann. I want to add my voice to the chorus of NO, I do not support this type of business establishing itself anywhere in our county, especially in Covelo. My information comes from the video "The Mendocino Voice" took of the meeting in Covelo last week. Very informative & worth a watch. If this Canadian corporation was truly invested in our sungrown small farms similar to Flow Kanna, it would be great & I would welcome it. Our nascent industry would benefit from a more centralized & streamlined local supply chain. In the meeting, they did speak of their manufacturing / distribution & other options for all farms in Covelo to be able to scale supply to meet demand, but many of the farmers questioned how to trust them to keep our clean cannabis products from being contaminated by their products.
The cultivation they are planning is in no way aligned with the ordinance or our ethos in the craft cannabis community. Cordovacann sounds synthetic from start to finish, in fact he mentioned using their own products, Heavy 16, which are chemicals banned in Oregon. Even more important: Is gene editing GMO (?) yes & no. And may need to added to the Mendocino noGMO ordinance ASAP. Is CRSPR safe (?) the jury is still out but the European Union has already said it is problematic… & as organic cannabis farmers, many of us breeders of all naturally propagated seeds, plants, flowers, we cannot let destructive technologies in. This noGMO info gathering needs to be fast tracked before it derails the Mendocino ordinance & threatens our clean food medicine, soil, water etc.
It was expressed by Cordovacann that they have not yet communicated with anyone in the county offices, the board, the Ag, Dept, B&P, etc & that they plan to buy land, hire farmers & then their employee farmers will apply for permits to grow for the corporation. This seems to a loophole in the county law they may be trying to exploit.
If, & only if, a multi-national stock traded corporation does end up setting up shop in Covelo, I hope to see some of their community development ideas clarified & put into writing to become actual agreements (we want to donate to schools & hospitals is nice words, but….. at this point, only words & way too broad, like everything else that was mentioned on behalf of the corporation). After all the county cannabis cultivators have been doing to maintain our independence as small farms, none of us want to become sharecroppers to a corportation. The Cordovacann press-release was very worrisome! I ask the Board to find out more about CordovaCann's plan for stacking licenses as well as all of the above concerning issues which, completely go against the intent of the county's law. PLEASE HELP!
On a separate but equally important note, the Ad Hoc Committee presented some great points, but please consider holding off until 2019 by NOT VOTING ON THE CANNBIS ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS UNTIL JANUARY. Important to note the state is not releasing their new, permanent regulations until after the new year. In the new year, we can hope there is a full board present & that we all have more clarity overall as we reevaluate the cannabis conversation at that time.
Thank you,
Laura Clein, Mendocino County resident