

Honorable Supervisors,

We write in support of the November 8th group letter from the seven membership-based cannabis organizations. Specifically, we endorse the formation of a Standing Cannabis Committee to support, in real time, MCP and its ongoing responsibilities.

The MCP staff has been tasked with a complex and demanding set of responsibilities. It's not feasible to expect them, shorthanded as they are, to attend to those responsibilities while also engaging in the myriad of public planning and policy issues that continue to swirl around the County Cannabis program. There needs to be an ongoing conduit to improve communication with the board so that the community, the board, and the MCP can make constructive changes together.

We also share the concerns regarding specific issues raised in the letter from the coalition of seven membership-based cannabis organizations. We encourage: the continued good faith processing of portal submissions; improved communication regarding the grant funding; staffing issues as they relate to the MCP's ability to process not only the portal submissions, but also the Appendix G submissions; the creation of a discretionary permitting pathway within 10A.17, the streamlining of building permits to support applicants and Planning and Building staff; etc. The list of concerns is ever growing and changing with the evolution of the Cannabis Program. The creation of a Standing Cannabis Committee would be the best way to engage with and manage those changes without distracting the MCP staff from the very work they have been hired to do.

Thank you, Stuart and Tara Marcus