



THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

INEZ E. DICKENS
Assemblywoman 70th District

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Micro Business

COMMITTEES
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Banks
Education
Libraries and Education Technology
Real Property Taxation
Small Business

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Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian
Legislative Caucus
Legislative Women's Caucus
Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force
Task Force on Women's Issues

December 13, 2022

Re: Cannabis Commercial Store on West 125th/street 200 block between Adam C. Powell Blvd and Frederick Douglas Blvd, Harlem

To Chris Alexander, Executive Director

It is understood the meaning of the cannabis law that we passed in Albany was meant to be inclusive. However, recognizing that community boards are not authoritative but instead only make recommendations, the boards are made of local residents and business owners with a vested interest in their communities, representing the wishes of the local residents and business owners. The same must be said of the 125th Street BID, The Harlem Coalition, The Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce and several additional entities like the store owners along the 125th Street commercial corridor. This corridor is the most highly traversed, readily accessed and Harlem's only main commercial strip where income is generated and circulated, employment is that of local residents and where residents and tourists alike are enabled to buy wares from our Village.

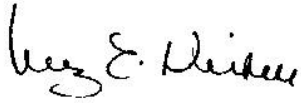
Additionally, as surely you are aware, in recent years, the 125th Street corridor been beleaguered with shootings, robberies, stabbings and due to the extreme prefiltration of drug programs on West 124th Street, the patients after checking into their programs to obtain their medicines, then leave and lay around all over 125th, 126th, 124th and beginning to extend farther north, sleeping in front of commercial establishments, stopping traffic, laying in the middle of the streets. Personal robberies have significantly increased causing undue personal injuries and fear. Families have been accosted and after much of the residents, commercial tenants, business owners and organizations have fought united to return 125th Street to somewhat of its former glory, today, it is once again losing commercials and buying power because of the fear that many Harlem's residents are experiencing.

You have now placed a cannabis store, right in the center of a dire situation that is quickly becoming or has become, a possible downward spiral of our commercial corridor. You did not have the courtesy of meeting with any of those so named above to allow those us most impacted fir opportunity to share surfers and take into consideration what we would like to see, nor do know who are the owners nor the sponsors nor how they intend to market, security in place , hours of operation.

With this letter, I am requesting that you schedule a meeting as soon as possible with minimally the persons/organizations named above.

Stay safe. Looking forward to hearing from you shortly, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Inez E. Dickens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Inez" being the most prominent part.

Inez E. Dickens
New York State Assembly
70th District

CC:

Kathy Hochul, Governor
Tremaine Wright, Chair, Cannabis Control Board
Shatic Mitchell, Executive Director, CB 10
Barbara Askins, Executive Director, 125thnStreet BID
Lloyd Williams, President, Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce
Hon. Cordell Cleare, NYS Senator
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Member of Congress
Harlem Coalition
William Allen
Wilma Brown
Keith Wright
Gricel Ortiz--Thompson