

BRONX CB 7
MOTION SUMMARY
January 18, 2024

Action/Motion Title: Bronx Community Board 7 to consider sending a letter of support to the Office of Cannabis Management for an Adult-Use Cannabis Retail Dispensary License at 3584 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467.

Committee(s): Executive Committee

Who should action/motion be addressed to? Office of Cannabis Management

Recommended Action/motion: Bronx Community Board 7 to consider sending a letter of support to the Office of Cannabis Management for an Adult-Use Cannabis Retail Dispensary License at 3584 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY 10467.

Background: Per Cannabis Law, Community Boards and municipalities are allowed the opportunity to express an opinion on whether they support the Cannabis Control Board's approval of Retail Dispensary for Adult Use Cannabis. The Community Board's opinion will become part of the record upon which the Cannabis Control Board shall grant or deny an application for a cannabis license. Community Board's and municipalities are able to review the proposed applicant's location, and express their opinion on the proposed location.

The Health and Human Services Committee held a Public Hearing on January 16, 2024 to solicit public input on the proposed locations. Members of the public raised questions around Fentanyl testing of cannabis product, whether the applicants had experience running similar establishments, unionization, what drew the applicants to select the proposed locations, and what tools the applicants used to ensure that they met the Distance Requirements for Zone Restrictions, among other questions.

The Health & Human Services Committee then held their Committee meeting and discussed the proposed location noting specific distance requirements from any schools, requirement is that Adult-Use Retail Dispensaries cannot be on the same road and within 500 ft of a building and its grounds occupied exclusively as a school, and for Houses of Worship, cannot be within 200 ft of a building occupied exclusively as a house of worship.

The 3584 Jerome Avenue location met both requirements; however the Committee did note that the proposed location is 272 ft away from Iglesia Pentecostal, located at 13 E 213th Street, and 876 ft away from Bronx Dance Academy School according to Google Maps. Additionally, the Committee raised that the proposed site is in the same building as Arms Acre, an Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment center, although there is a separate entrance on 213th Street for the Center.

Links: Bronx CB7 Cannabis Adult-Use Retail Dispensary License Application: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ANj59pEfEfPUP8twcyzIWIXKUYmv1dlwwanc9-Toz8A/edit?usp=sharing>

Rationale for Recommendation: The Health and Human Services Committee understands the importance of considering legal Adult Use Cannabis Dispensaries within NYC and Bronx CB7. The Committee and Executive Committee expressed some reservations around the proximity to Arms Acre, however ultimately viewed the location as one that meets the Office of Cannabis distance requirements, and is an area less trafficked than other parts of the Community Board. The Committee and Executive Committee also noted the importance of legal establishments opening to provide a regulated option to cannabis consumers and to deter business at illicit Smoke Shops which are abundant in the District.

Timing: Needs vote at the 1/23/24 General Board meeting to meet Office of Cannabis Management timeline requirements.

Prior Action: Public Hearing Held on 1/16/2024.

Future Actions: N/A

Committee Vote: Quorum not present, vote tabled to Executive Committee Meeting.

Executive Committee Vote: Favorably: 6 yeses, 1 abstention (Chad Royer), 1 no, 2 absent.

Lead Board Member(s): Michelle Avila, Barbara Stronczer, Yajaira Arias

