#### PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

City Council Chambers 651 Prairie Pointe Drive, Yorkville, IL Wednesday, October 9, 2024 7:00pm

## **Meeting Called to Order**

Chairman Richard Vinyard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, roll was called and a quorum was established.

## **Roll Call**

Danny Williams-yes, Ryan Forristall-yes, Rusty Hyett-yes, Greg Millen-yes, Marge Linnane-yes, Richard Vinyard-yes

## **City Staff in Attendance**

Krysti Barksdale-Noble, Community Development Director Sara Mendez, Planner l Monica Cisija (via Zoom) Meghan Lamb, City Attorney Alderman Dan Transier (via Zoom) Alderman Chris Funkhouser (via Zoom)

#### Others in Attendance

Lynn Dubajic Kellogg, City Consultant
Chris Vitosh, Vitosh Reporting Service
Joey Weslo, *Kendall County Record* (via Zoom)
Mitchel Kay, Attorney, Consume Cannabis
Steve Weber, Consume Cannabis
Peter Karlis (via Zoom)
Nick Taylor (via Zoom)
Jake Coward, Director of Operations, Consume Cannabis

### SEE ALSO ATTACHED SIGN-IN SHEETS FOR ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

#### **Previous Meeting Minutes September 11, 2024**

Motion by Mr. Williams and second by Mr. Forristall to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call: Forristall-yes, Hyett-yes, Millen-yes, Linnane-yes, Vinyard-yes, Williams-yes Carried 6-0.

## Citizen's Comments None

## **Public Hearings**

Chairman Vinyard said there was one Public Hearing tonight. He explained the procedure for the Public Hearing, taking of testimony and then swore in those who would present testimony.

A motion was made and seconded by Mr. Williams and Ms. Linnane, respectively, at about 7:03pm, to open the Public Hearing. Roll call: Forristall-yes, Hyett-yes, Millen-yes, Vinyard-yes, Williams-yes, Linnane-yes, Carried 6-0.

Chairman Vinyard read the Public Hearing description as follows:

1. PZC 2024-19 Steve Weber, on behalf of PTS Corp. (contract lessee and petitioner) and Fort Smith FD Partners, LLC (owner), has applied to the United City of Yorkville, Kendall County, Illinois, for special use authorization to establish a cannabis dispensary within the B-3 General Business District on a 1.33-acre parcel at 1508 N. Bridge Street, located in the northeast quadrant of Veteran's Parkway (U.S. Route 34) and N. Bridge Street. The petitioner is also seeking three variances to Section 10-4-14 of the Yorkville Unified Development Ordinance: 1) reducing the minimum distance between the dispensary and certain pre-existing institutions from 500 feet to 450 feet; 2) extending the permitted hours of operation to 9:00a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 10:00a.m. to 6:00p.m. on Sundays; and 3) allowing more than one wall-mounted sign by adhering to the current signage regulations for similar B-3 businesses while complying with Illinois cannabis signage rules.

(See Court Reporter's transcript)
(All responses to be included in official transcript)

Public Hearing testimony concluded at approximately 8:05pm and the Hearing was closed on a motion by Ms. Linnane and second by Mr. Millen. Roll call: Millen-yes, Linnane-yes, Vinyard-yes, Williams-yes, Forristall-yes, Hyett-yes. Carried 6-0.

#### Unfinished Business None

#### **New Business**

1. PZC 2024-19 Steve Weber, on behalf of PTS Corp. (contract lessee and petitioner) and Fort Smith FD Partners, LLC (see full description in #1 above)

Community Development Director Krysti Barksdale-Noble gave a summary of the ordinances applicable to this petition. She described the building and property being considered and said it is currently vacant. The zoning is B-3 and B-2 on the west. The dispensary was reviewed by the legal department and outside agencies to insure compliance and for the Special Use. Ms. Noble noted that only one cannabis dispensary will be allowed in the city per ordinance. She also said there is a required 500 feet separation from any school and that Parkview Christian Academy is 460 feet from property line to property line. A variance will be requested for the distance. She said the petitioner has met the bulk regulations. Ms. Noble noted the drive-through window and said the window and e-commerce are prohibited by city ordinance. Elevations and signage were discussed and Ms. Noble said the petitioner has requested a variance for the number of wall-mounted signs and hours of operation. Staff researched 10 other communities' cannabis laws and found that most other towns allow 2 dispensaries and the distance from schools ranged from 220-970 feet. A distance map was prepared by staff to show the available sites which are very limited in the city.

A community meeting to present information on the dispensary was held by the petitioner for nearby property owners, however, no public members attended. A written objection from the Parkview Academy attorney was received and Ms. Noble said a letter in support of the dispensary was received from an area business.

Additional information related to the Special Use was requested by staff including owners/those having financial interest, lease or contract, business plan, waste management plan and security plan. If the Special Use and variances are approved, staff is recommending signage be posted inside the business stating no consumption on premises and also the minimum requirement of

landscaping be installed by the sign. Ms. Noble reviewed the standards for Special Use and the petitioner's responses.

The Commission then discussed the Special Use request. Chairman Vinyard said he disagreed with the location of the proposed dispensary. Mr. Forristall questioned the need for the security and if it is required by the state. Ms. Noble noted the business is a cash-only operation and Jake Coward, Assistant Director of Operations of Illinois said the security and video cameras are required by state statute and because of the cash operation. Ms. Linnane also said she does not like the location due to the many family-oriented uses nearby, though she is not opposed to the dispensary. She also did not favor the name "Consume Cannabis". Mr. Hyett commented that the location is bad and noted the hotel behind the proposed site.

Ms. Noble recapped the 3 variances being requested and she reviewed the standards and responses for them. There was no further discussion.

## **Action Item**

Special Use

Commissioners Williams and Linnane, respectively, moved to approve the Special Use. Mr. Williams read the motion as follows: In consideration of testimony presented during a Public Hearing on October 9, 2024 and discussion of the findings of fact, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval to the City Council a request for Special Use authorization to operate a cannabis dispensary business within the B-3 General Business District for an approximately 1.33-acre parcel located at 1508 N. Bridge Street, subject to staff recommendations in a memo dated October 3, 2024.

Roll call: Linnane-no, Vinyard-no, Williams-yes, Forristall-no, Hyett-no, Millen-no. Motion failed 5-1.

### **Action Item**

Variance (distance)

Commissioners Williams and Millen moved and seconded, respectively, to approve the variance regarding distance from a school. Mr. Williams read the motion as follows: In consideration of testimony presented during a Public Hearing on October 9, 2024 and discussion of the findings of fact, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval to the City Council a request for a variance to Section 10-4-14(D)(1) of the Unified Development Ordinance to decrease the minimum distance a cannabis dispensing organization can be located to a pre-existing public or private nursery school, preschool, primary or secondary school, day care center, day care home, residential care home, or religious institutions from five-hundred feet (500') to four-hundred fifty feet (450') for an approximately 1.33-acre parcel located at 1508 N. Bridge Street.

Roll call: Vinyard-no, Williams-yes, Forristall-no, Hyett-no, Millen-no, Linnane-no. Motion failed 5-1.

#### **Action Item**

Variance (hours)

Commissioners Williams and Forristall moved and seconded, respectively, to approve the variance regarding change of hours. Mr. Williams read the motion as follows: In consideration of testimony presented during a Public Hearing on October 9, 2024 and discussion of the findings of fact, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval to the City Council a request for a variance to Section 10-4-14(A)(1) of the Unified Development Ordinance to change the permitted hours of operation for a cannabis dispensary from "10:00a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays" to "9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays" for an approximately 1.33-acre parcel located at 1508 N. Bridge Street.

Roll call: Williams-yes, Forristall-no, Hyett-no, Millen-no, Linnane-no, Vinyard-yes. Motion failed 4-2.

## **Action Item**

Variance (signs)

Mr. Williams moved [no second was audible] to approve relief from only one wall-mounted sign. He read the motion as follows: In consideration of testimony presented during a Public Hearing on October 9, 2024 and discussion of the findings of fact, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends approval to the City Council a request for a variance to Section 10-4-14 (A(3)(a) of the Unified Development Ordinance seeking relief from the maximum one (1) wall-mounted sign per cannabis business to allow the petitioner to follow the current signage regulations in Section 10-6-6(A)(4) for similar B-3 General Business District single-tenant uses while maintaining compliance with Illinois State signage regulations for cannabis businesses for an approximately 1.33-acre parcel located at 1508 N. Bridge Street.

Roll call: Forristall-no, Hyett-no, Millen-no, Linnane-no, Vinyard-no, Williams-yes. Motion failed 5-1.

2. **PZC 2024-23 Kendall County Petition 24-26,** Timothy A. Tremain, petitioner, is requesting an approval of a map amendment (rezoning) for 3.6+/- acres located on the north side of River Road and approximately 0.75 miles east of Eldamain Road between 11327 and 11209 River Road from R-1 One-Family Residential District to R-3 One-Family Residential District. The purpose of the request is to construct a maximum of two (2) single-family houses. The real property is located immediately north of River Road and approximately 0.75 miles east of Eldamain Road in unincorporated Kendall County.

Ms. Mendez presented the facts for this petition and stated that Mr. Tremain is requesting a map amendment and rezoning to R-3 for his 3.6 acres, in order to construct 2 single-family homes. The Commissioners had no discussion for this 1.5 Mile Review. If approved, this will move to the City Council on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Action Item**

1.5 Mile Review

Mr. Williams moved and Mr. Hyett seconded to approve the request. Mr. Williams read the motion as follows: In consideration of the proposed mile and one-half review of Kendall County Petition 24-26 for a map amendment 3.6 +/- acres located immediately north of River Road and approximately 0.75 miles east of Eldamain Road, between 11327 and 11209 River Road, from R-1 One-Family Residential District to R-3 One-Family Residential District, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends to the City Council not to object to the request. Roll call: Forristall-yes, Hyett-yes, Millen-yes, Vinyard-yes, Williams-yes, Linnane-yes. Carried 6-0.

3. **PZC 2024-24 Kendall County Petition 24-27,** Steve W. Jeffers, on behalf of Revolution Investments, LLC, petitioners, are requesting approval of a Plat of Vacation to vacate the public easements between two (2) parcels (Lots 110 and 111) within the Whitetail Ridge subdivision. The purpose of the request is to construct a home in the center of the combined lots. The real property is located at 5862 and 5834 Championship Court, which is generally located north of the East Schoolhouse Road (IL Route 126) between Grove Road and Hopkins Road in unincorporated Kendall County.

The summary of this petition was presented by Ms. Mendez who said this is a request to vacate a public easement between 2 separate parcels so Mr. Jeffers can construct a home in the center of the 2 lots. She said the HOA is OK with this request as well as staff. There was no other discussion. If approved, this will move to the City Council on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Action Item**

1.5 Mile Review

Mr. Williams moved and Mr. Millen seconded a motion to approve Mr. Jeffers' request. Mr. Williams read the motion as follows: In consideration of the proposed mile and one-half review of Kendall County Petition 24-27 for a plat of vacation to vacate the public utility easement between two (2) parcels (Lots 110 and 111) within the Whitetail Ridge Subdivision commonly known as 5862 and 5834 Championship Court, the Planning and Zoning Commission recommends the City Council not to object to the request.

Roll call: Forristall-yes, Hyett-yes, Millen-yes, Linnane-yes, Vinyard-yes, Williams-yes. Carried 6-0.

#### **Additional Business**

## 1. Appointment of New Vice Chair

Ms. Noble said Mr. Vinyard has been appointed as the new Chairman of this Commission. Mr. Vinyard recommended Mr. Williams as the new Vice-Chair.

## 2. City Council Action Updates

- **a.** PZC 2024-01 Yorkville Renewables has been moved to City Council on October 24 for a vote.
- b. PZC 2024-18 Kendall County Petition 24-07 Jerry Styrczula: approved.
- c. PZC 2024-20 Kendall County Petition 24-22 Leo M. Phillip: approved.

## **Adjournment**

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:44pm on a motion by Danny Williams.

Respectfully submitted by Marlys Young, Minute Taker

## PLEASE SIGN IN

MEETING:	Planning of	2 oning
DATE:	10-9-24	

NAME	BUSINESS NAME OR
(PLEASE PRINT)	SUBDIVISION NAME
Brynn Krempski	Weed
Peri Krempski	Weed
Ginger Rees	ward 2 - in town
MIKE KREMPSKI	
Molly Krempski	
Rachel Hansen	Parkview
KEVIN HANSEN	Parkeview
Alan Blomquist	Yorkville resident
Colleen Murphy	Parhview Yorhville business on
Paula Steinhoft	Packing Mom, Busines Owner
Melisa Farmer	Parkview
Orin young	Parkiew-Man Old South Enploy Town
Tim HARAN	Parkyon
Tracey Hagan	Parkview
Faith Skinner	Parkview Christian

# PLEASE SIGN IN

MEETING:	PZC	
DATE:	10-9-24	

NAME	BUSINESS NAME OR
(PLEASE PRINT)	SUBDIVISION NAME
Darin Malme	Park View CA
Katherine Tessmer	Parkiew
Betsy Nelson	Parkview
Marina Kereljus	ParkView
Milan K-Meljus Jr.	Parkwich
Robert Kindle	PARILITIENS
Alisa kindle	Parkview
Lilah borneman	packview
Tony Senagene	Hodges Loizzi
Jordan Gash	Parkuren Christian
Todd lear	Perhulow
Jane Colburt	Parkview
Barlo Pugesek	Parkellen
Sarah Van Denveral	Parkview
Mork Van Denend	Paykview

## PLEASE SIGN IN

MEETING:	PZC	
DATE:	10-9-24	

NAME BUSINESS NAME O		
(PLEASE PRINT)	SUBDIVISION NAME	
Fran & Sheni Klaas	Countryside Center	
Leith Kurtz	ParKilen	
Dr. Roy Epperson	Parkview	
Frank + Janet Perko	Parkview	
Ryan 1. Speak Malkonski	PARKUEW	
Angre Mampson	Parkview	
Cornie Arias	Parknew	
Kathleen Reis	Parkvuw	
John Rein	PARLKUjecj	
Anneliese Linnemann	Parkview	
Scott Mantia	PORKVIEW	
Valarie Epperson	Parkview	
Debbie Lewis	Parkview	
JOR DAN Serie	Parkure	
MIKE GONZALEZ	PARAMEN	

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	PZC - Public Hearing - October 9, 2024———————————————————————————————————
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6	UNITED CITY OF YORKVILLE
7	YORKVILLE, ILLINOIS
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10	PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
11	PUBLIC HEARING
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17	651 Prairie Pointe Drive
18	Yorkville, Illinois
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21	Wednesday, October 9, 2024
22	7:00 p.m.
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(WHEREUPON, the following
 proceedings were had in public
 hearing:)

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: We will move on to the next item on the agenda, into the public hearings.

There is one public hearing scheduled tonight for the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting. The purpose of this hearing is to invite testimony from members of the public regarding the proposed request that is being considered before the Commission tonight.

Public testimony from persons

present who wish to speak may speak for or

against the request, or to ask questions of the

petitioner regarding the request being heard.

The persons wishing to testify are asked to speak clearly, one at a time, state your name, who you represent. You are also asked to sign in at the podium over there.

If you plan to speak during tonight's hearing as a petitioner or member of the public, please stand, raise your right hand and repeat after me.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Yes.

MS. YOUNG: Williams.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

MS. YOUNG: And Linane.

MS. LINANE: Yes.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: All right. This is a mouthful now. So the public hearing up for tonight's public discussion is PZC 2024-19,

Steve Weber on behalf of PTS Corp, this is the contract lessee and petitioner, and Fort Smith FD Partners, LLC would be the owner, has applied to the United City of Yorkville, Kendall County,

Illinois, for special use authorization to establish a cannabis dispensary within the B-3

General Business District on a 1.33 acre parcel at 1508 North Bridge Street located in the northeast quadrant of Veteran's Parkway and North Bridge Street.

The petitioner is also seeking three variances to Section 10-4-14 of the Yorkville

Unified Development Ordinance: One, reducing the minimum distance between the dispensary and certain pre-existing institutions from 500 feet to 450 feet; the second is extending the

permitted hours of operation to 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays; and, three, allowing more than one wall mounted sign by adhering to the current signage regulations for similar B-3 businesses while complying with the Illinois cannabis signage rule.

Is the petitioner for PZC 2024-19, PTS Corp. present and prepared to make your presentation?

MR. WEBER: Yes, I am.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Very good, sir.

STEVE WEBER,

having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows:

MR. WEBER: Good evening, everybody. My name is Steve Weber. I am the petitioner for this current request for tonight.

Just a little background. So I am a resident in the western suburbs, I currently reside in Kane County, in St. Charles, and I just thought I would let you know the reason I got into cannabis is about ten years ago, me being a military veteran, I saw how much help that the

product provided wounded veterans as well as veterans that suffer from PTSD, depression, pain, anxiety, so that was my inspiration to get into the space.

So fast forward ten years later, we are here now. PTS -- all right. PTS, our core values, our core values are education, number one.

We believe in properly informing our customers, both medical and recreational, of -- one thing I want to say is that this store is going to both be able to both serve recreational as well as medicinal consumers, providing continuous course offerings to the public, advise through education and purchasing guidance, we strive to educate consumers about the realities of cannabis and its effects for both medicinal and recreational consumers.

Second core value is community. We believe in becoming strong partners within the community. We support local chambers of commerce and community events where appropriate. We believe in strong relationships and communications with our neighboring businesses.

Responsibility. Our marketing efforts and communications are directed and curated for adult consumers, not under age. All marketing materials are compliant through the rules and regulations set by the industry. We have created procedures and processes of review that are dedicated to compliance.

PTS difference. So we are a vertically integrated company. We deal with cultivation, manufacturing, as well as distribution and retail.

Cultivation. We have created proprietary methods that produce top shelf flowers. They include lighting schemes, automated irrigation methods, unique media formulations and novel HVAC designs.

Manufacturing. We currently produce over 250 active SKUs for retail distribution, including beverages, popsicles, chewing gum, chocolate, gummies, vapes, topicals, concentrates at a scale all in multiple size, child safe form factors.

Distribution. PTS partners with a broad range of dispensaries in Illinois,

Michigan, Arizona and Ohio. We have a very experienced executive team. Our team has completed hundreds of harvests over the years in multiple states.

We have managed numerous operations around the country in a variety of climates and geographies. Management has shown the ability to both port and scale our IP into both new and established markets.

CPG strategy branded product development. Our board members have decades of successful experience in consumer packaged goods, retail sales and distribution. Tonic, a THC infused beverage, is the number one product in this category in Illinois and Michigan.

Our stores are branded consume

Cannabis Company. We have operational retail

outlets in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Arizona.

We are dedicated to scientifically driven

proprietary IP.

Through our subsidiary, we have multiple patent pending. Our technologies include solvent extraction, novel dry cure methods and unique sensors for improving yields.

We respect that cannabis advertising should not directly or indirectly propose that any laws pertinent to the sale and consumption of cannabis should not be complied with.

Advertising should adhere to general and industry standard advertising best practices.

Abuse or inappropriate consumption of cannabis should not be encouraged directly or indirectly.

Advertising themes, concepts and visuals should not depict any imagery that may target an underage person or intend to encourage an underage person to consume cannabis.

We, along with our licensed security company, Silver Star Protection Group, have shared our security plan with Police Chief James Jensen as well as his command staff.

We have a very robust security plan that has been designed to ensure the safety and security of employees, purchasers, and the community is a priority.

PTS Corp. has a proven ten-year track record of operating both dispensaries as well as cultivation facilities that feature a

discipline free record of full regulatory compliance and adherence to the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act.

As an organization that has done millions of customer transactions, we pride ourselves as being a market leader at compliance, followed by our relentless pursuit of customer service.

These are some of the different advertisements as well as compliance rules in the states that we currently operate in.

This just shows some of our different locations in different states. As I mentioned, we are in four different states right now, Arizona, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio.

Why is consume different than other dispensaries? Consume Cannabis Company is a national retail cannabis brand with the purpose of providing a better cannabis experience to medical and recreational purchasers.

Since education is at the heart of Consume, all of our advisors and staff begin with a proprietary training program to gain a full understanding of local cannabis laws, products

and consumption methods.

Our onboarding and training processes go beyond a training manual. We offer an online platform, consume University, that provides mini tutorials and interactive lessons. Our goal is for every consumer to have a better understanding of cannabis and the effects that it will have on their body.

I just want to give you a snapshot of currently what's going on in Illinois. So when you originally passed your ordinance, there was 55 medicinal-only stores that were allowed in the state.

Fast forward four years now, there is currently 228 active dispensaries in Illinois, 16 that are under construction or approved.

There is -- per Illinois law, 355 stores are allowed to open up in the state, so that leaves 111 remaining to be approved and/or open.

Stores that are currently close to Yorkville, there is two stores currently operating in Oswego, two in Plainfield that are coming soon, there is one in Montgomery, and then

there is three in Aurora.

Once again, this is the snapshot of where the consume locations are in the four different states.

Consume Cannabis, benefits of having a consume dispensary in Yorkville. Due to the nature of the business and difficulty moving licenses, consume provides a stable, long-term tenant for -- or building owner for years to come.

Consume dispensary locations will fill an empty retail location. Where possible, we will use locally based businesses for goods and services or contracted needs.

Consume attracts new customers to the area who will inherently spend money at local businesses. We provide both salaried as well as hourly positions along with benefits to our employees.

Average employee count at a consume is approximately, between full-time and part-time, 20 to 25. Our average monthly payrolls are around \$75,000 a month plus.

New employees. Because of the

payroll, the new employees will spend locally, adding to the economy, as well as offering new options for employment other than fast food or traditional retail jobs, while also paying at or above most other comparable employers.

At one of our recent stores that we opened up, we had over 250 applications for 20 spots. Any time we promote somebody and we need to recruit new patient advisors, there is always a lot of applications that come. There is lots of people that want to be employed by -- they want to be in the space. They want to be employed by cannabis dispensaries, so it just shows that, you know, there is people that are very interested and passionate and want to be in the cannabis space.

I note tonight one of the requests that I had is for -- to slightly change the hours that the ordinance has in place. The justification for the request is I wanted to just kind of show the hours that we are requesting.

At the top you can see Monday through Saturday, 9:00 to 9:00, and then Sunday, 10:00 to 6:00, which equates to 80 hours of being

open.

Our nearest competitor is Ivy Hall.

They are going to be open for 84 hours. They are open from 9:00 to 9:00 Monday through Thursday;

Friday, Saturday, 9:00 to 10:00 p.m.; and then Sunday, nine to seven.

Market 96, which is in Oswego, they are open Monday through Sunday from 9:00 to 9:00 p.m., 84 hours total open.

And then Cloud 9, which is the most recent one that opened up, they are open from Sunday through Thursday, 8:00 to 9:00; and then Friday and Saturday, 8:00 to 10:00, for a total of 93 hours. So those are the closest competitors in their hours.

And then I made an additional slide that just kind of shows some of the other businesses in town, the liquor stores, in regards to their hours, so I just wanted you to understand where I was coming from in regards to why I requested the hours be what they are.

Here is our management team.

Obviously I am not going to go through each person's bio here, but just to let you know that

we have a very strong management team.

With that, I thank the staff for putting everything together. I thank the Planning and Zoning Commission for obviously listening to us.

Obviously I am seeking a favorable recommendation on all of the requests and, with that, I would like to just say thank you, and our full staff is here for any questions that anybody may have.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Thank you. All right. Is there anyone who wishes to speak in favor of the request?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Seeing as there are none, are there anyone present who wishes to speak in opposition of the request? All right. Please step up to the podium.

JORDAN GASH,

having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows:

MR. GASH: Hello, everyone. My name is Jordan Gash. I am a Yorkville resident. Just

want to start out by saying thank you to everyone. I know some of you who are here and I appreciate all that you do for the community.

I am here on behalf of Parkview
Christian Academy. I serve as the board
president at the school, and I actually met with
Mr. Weber on July 13th over the summer and we
voiced our objection at that time to the location
of the cannabis facility, and so at that time I
think the same things that I am going to share
tonight are the same things that we shared in our
conversation.

We are not objecting to the business being in Yorkville, we are objecting to its location and the close proximity that it is to the school.

So I live here in Yorkville, my wife Melissa and I have four kids. Three out of four attend Parkview Christian Academy, and so, too, my middle schooler and my high schooler who is currently enrolled at the school would be right there at that upper campus, and so we have moral objections as a family, moral objections as a school, and my request tonight for those of you

that are making this decision and taking this decision up the chain to be voted on as it relates to these variances, we respectfully ask that these variances not be approved.

We feel like those standards are in place for good reasons, and if they are approved, I think my question would be who is looking out for our kids, and so those standards are there for the safety and the health and the well-being of children and so to go against those standards and against those variances, I'd be personally saddened as a resident because I feel like we need to be looking out for our children, that's the reason why those standards are in place, and so for all of you that have an opportunity to be a part of this decision, for our mayor, ultimately for our aldermen, I ask you to look out for the kids.

The other thing I think I'd like to bring up is, you know, not only looking out for the kids, but I'd ask the question if those variances were to be approved, you know, what do we value as a community.

I think that, again, Parkview

Christian Academy, it's not just a 501(c)(3) non-profit, it's made of up of families,

Yorkville residents, taxpayers like myself who have come together to teach their kids, so we've got an amazing staff, it's an amazing organization.

We are teaching biblical values, we are teaching service, community service, and I think that if these variances are approved, it makes me ask that question as a resident what do we really value.

There is more to being a successful community than our tax revenues, and I feel like to take really the decision that is being made it's between PTS and Parkview Christian Academy because of these variance requests, and so I think that that's a good question to ask, what do we value, so I just want to propose that to you tonight.

And, again, I am speaking on behalf of our school board, on behalf of our school community, we respectfully ask that the variances not be approved, and then, too, that we ask our ourselves some of those questions I think are

good for all of us, who is going to protect our 1 2 That's why those standards are in place. 3 We ask they be upheld. And then, two, what do we truly value as a community. 5 So thank you for your time. 6 appreciate it. 7 (Applause.) 8 CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Thank you, sir. 9 Whoever would like to go next, please. 10 CORIN YOUNG, 11 having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows: 12 13 MS. YOUNG: I have prepared my comments on paper here just to make sure I am respectful 14 15 of everyone's time. 16 CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Could you state your 17 name for us, please? MS. YOUNG: Oh, yes. Corin Young. 18 19 a parent at Parkview Christian School and I have 20 lived in Yorkville my entire life. So long time 21 resident. 22 Today I would urge you to increasing 23 the distance between cannabis dispensaries and

the schools for the sake of our children's health

24

and safety.

Under Illinois law, as you are all aware, cannabis dispensaries must be at least 500 feet from schools, and I will cite several sources throughout my material.

I am not going to list them all for you because I think that's probably a waste of your time, but I do have the materials here if you would like to see them.

Resident studies and insights from public health organizations suggest that this distance may not be sufficient to shield young people from the negative effects from cannabis exposure and marketing.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention highlights that cannabis use among teens can interfere with brain development, affect academic performance and increase the risk of mental health issues like anxiety and depression, and based on your comments, I'm sure that that's not something that you want and I appreciate your effort to educate the communities that you reside in.

However, as we examine the broader

implications of cannabis dispensaries on our communities, it becomes evident that the issues extend beyond their proximity to schools.

Lax regulations, particularly in terms of security and monitoring, which it sounds like you make an effort to address, have raised concerns about the relationship between these establishments and local crime rates, as well as homelessness.

Research from multiple sources suggests that communities with high visibility of cannabis dispensaries are seeing troubling correlation with increased crime and homelessness.

Many cannabis products are highly potent, leading to cases where dependency or even mental health crisis such as cannabis induced psychosis are becoming more and more common.

In the case of Johnny Stacks' story, it is a heartbreaking example of how this dependency can spiral. Johnny's use of highly concentrated THC products led him into a cycle of addiction, ultimately resulting in severe mental health struggles, and tragically his suicide.

We know that many of Consume

Cannabis' products are edibles geared towards

children in both their flavoring and high

concentrations of THC. Moreover, many of these

packages contain 100 milligrams of THC, a dosage

level that is described as follows: Even in

seasoned consumers, negative side effects like

paranoia and rapid heart rate can occur.

Coordination is almost always impaired at this

stage, end quote.

Current regulations allow a consumer to purchase 500 milligrams of THC per day.

While we cannot change Illinois law or the current city regulations, we can at the very least enforce the lax requirements for cannabis dispensaries.

A 2021 national survey on drug use and health found that among the 52 million

Americans 12 years and older who used marijuana in the past month, 16 million were addicted.

One-third of the users can't quit despite the drug's negative effects on their lives.

In closing, and on a personal note, I would ask is this who we are as a community? The Yorkville I grew up in used to be a place of nurturing, growth and care.

I watched my local church coordinate with local business owners to build a gazebo in Town Square Park. It was no small feat at the time. I was there for the original duck race on the Fox River.

I have watched businesses come and businesses go, and I have watched community members invest so much time into this community because we believe in this community. We believe in being here and in what's being done here. We joined Parkview Christian Academy for that very reason.

My family has not been the most prominent or outspoken family in Yorkville, but we have been the quiet servants of this community, raising funds, bringing meals to those in need, gathering supplies and raising our family to leave things better than they found them.

We work hard and pray even harder for safe educational opportunities for our children, something our local school district

wasn't able to provide.

I ask you to consider the many sacrifices of local families, many of whom are unable to be present here tonight prior to making our choice, what is the cost of our children's future and our community's future?

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Thank you. Who would like to go next? Please step up to the podium, sign in and then state your name for us, sir.

AL BLOMQUIST,

having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows:

MR. BLOMQUIST: Yes, sir. My name is Al Blomquist, and my piece is relatively brief here. Just as a grandfather of three teenage boys here in Yorkville, I would strongly urge that just as we would not sell cannabis to children, so should we avoid the marketing or selling of cannabis in a neighboring location to a school.

I have nothing against a marijuana store per se as long as it is kept in a normal zoning distance from the school. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Thank you, sir.

Next.

2 FRANCIS KLAAS,

having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows:

MR. KLAAS: My name is Francis Klaas. I live at 205 East Kendall Drive in Countryside

Center Subdivision. I am here representing

myself, my wife and my family.

I am going to disagree just a little bit with the president of Parkview Christian

Academy because I am speaking against this petition, but not only for the reason that it's in proximity to the school, but that it's in Yorkville at all.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Amen.

MR. KLAAS: I would encourage the board to not approve the variances, and just as soon as you can, increase the setbacks and every other thing that is required of a dispensary and make it so uninviting to Yorkville that none are ever located here, and I say this, you know, for a couple different reasons.

The proliferation of drugs and alcohol in our country is not a good thing, and I

think it sets a terrible example for our young people, and it desensitizes them to drugs and alcohol. Even if they are not allowed to do it, they are affected by this.

We want Yorkville to be a wholesome community, and just because other communities are building dispensaries, that doesn't make it right. There are thousands of stores that sell cigarettes; I wouldn't say that's virtuous.

So I think I would encourage you to choose to say no and make this an uninviting thing. Vote no on the variances and simply say no.

Just because Montgomery or Oswego is doing it, it doesn't mean it's a good thing for Yorkville.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: That's right.

MR. KLAAS: I love this town, and I just don't think that sort of thing should be here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Have the podium.

## MOLLY KREMPSKI,

having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows:

MS. KREMPSKI: My name is Molly

Krempski. I own properties in Yorkville. I have
a bunch of kids, but they don't go to Parkview, I
am just here speaking on behalf of myself and my
family.

I want to clear up a couple -- or just one really misunderstanding about the 500-foot setback that keeps coming up in conversations that I have been having and then I will say what I came to say.

I feel like when the purposes for specific ordinances are understood, there is a tendency to have more respect for them.

So there is various types of businesses that require setbacks from schools. These setbacks are put in place to keep -- they aren't put in place to keep the kids out of businesses, we already have laws for that, but these school setbacks are put in place to mitigate the proven secondary effects that various business types have on the community.

The Secondary Effects Doctrine was established about 15 years ago. We had the Supreme Court ruling Young v. American Mini Theaters, and it allows for setbacks to be established to keep spaces around residential areas, schools, parks, churches, from deteriorating.

In subsequent decisions the court added that a city does not have to conduct its own study to justify its reliance on the secondary effects argument; instead, the city could rely on studies conducted in other cities previously.

This is why Yorkville is able to legislate cannabis setbacks from schools, because the activities that have occurred in other towns prove the need for such legislation.

Thought, planning, research and discussion went into these ordinances. As you know from your time spent on this committee and perhaps if you served on other committees, it's a deliberate and rational process that is entered into with the aim of creating spaces where children can safely learn and grow.

I have always been in favor of upholding ordinances put in place to protect children, and I am still, after several years of speaking before committees and the City Council here in Yorkville, am in favor of upholding ordinances put in place to protect children.

I realize that you guys might feel some pressure to generate revenue for the city, but I will ask, as many of these people have asked tonight, what is the security of Yorkville's children worth to the committee?

Because it's priceless to me.

I know it seems to make sense by the reasoning of men that if we want to be prosperous we need to facilitate the opening of as many businesses as possible, but it doesn't always work that way.

A city that prioritizes revenue over the defense of the most defenseless among us will never know true prosperity.

The Preamble to the Illinois

Constitution -- and, now, this is a document that

the aldermen have sworn an oath to uphold -- it

reads: We, the People of the State of Illinois,

grateful to Almighty God, for the civil,
political and religious liberty which He has
permitted us to enjoy and in seeking his
blessings upon our endeavors, in order to provide
for the health, safety and welfare of the people;
maintain a representative and orderly government;
eliminate poverty and inequality; assure legal,
social and economic justice; provide opportunity
for the fullest development of the individual;
ensure domestic tranquility; provide for the
common defense; and secure the blessings of
freedom and liberty to ourselves and our
posterity, do ordain and establish this
Constitution for the State of Illinois.

So Illinois was established to provide for people by honoring God. Putting kids at risk by nullifying ordinances that were put in place to ensure their safety, their welfare, their fullest development, does not honor God or secure his blessing.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Thank you.

By a show of hands, could you guys let me know how many more people would like to

say something? 1 2 (A show of hands.) 3 CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Okay. In defense of the amount of people that want to say something, 4 5 I am getting the point that the location of this 6 is going to be the main issue. 7 Am I correct with that? UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No. 8 No. CHAIRMAN VINYARD: That's what I am 9 10 getting with every one of them? 11 UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No. CHAIRMAN VINYARD: All right. So those 12 13 of you who have something to say other than its proximity to Parkview, I am going to take you 14 15 guys next. 16 We've got a pretty good grasp on the 17 location issue. If you have any other concerns 18 outside of its proximity to Parkview, please grab

the podium.

DR. RAY EPPERSON,

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having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows:

DR. EPPERSON: My name is Dr. Ray Epperson. I am the superintendent at Parkview

Christian Academy. I have lived in Yorkville basically since I got married in the early 80's, my wife has lived in Yorkville since she was born, so we are long-time residents of the community.

Yes, the proximity is a major concern, but you asked for additional things. In your initial presentation you talked about the fact that your company complies with all the regulations, but the purpose of this meeting is you are asking to change three things that are currently regulations.

(Applause.)

DR. EPPERSON: More signage, more hours, and closer to the school. Again, those regulations are there for a reason. They weren't just developed willy-nilly. A lot of time, thought, effort, went into putting those regulations in place.

So it's just a simple ask that they are there for a reason, follow that reasoning of why they are there in the first place.

You talked about the number of dispensaries in the state. This isn't just a

question of proximity to Parkview, but I don't know the answer, and maybe I'd be surprised by the answer, how many of those dispensaries across the state are within 500 feet of a school?

(Applause.)

DR. EPPERSON: I don't know the answer to that. It might be a lot. I know I have driven in all the surrounding communities just from shopping and living in the area and every one I drive by that has a dispensary, there is not a school in sight anywhere in the vicinity of those places, so my ask is simply the regulations are there for a reason.

The last thing I am going to say is you talked about marketing. Businesses spend millions in marketing. They market for a specific reason.

The name of this dispensary is consume Cannabis, so there is going to be signs the kids in our community and the families of our community are going to be driving by every single day that say consume Cannabis. I don't think that's good for Yorkville.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Thank you.

## (Applause.)

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Somebody else have anything to say? Please, step to the podium, sign in and state your name.

## DAVE YOUNG,

having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows:

MR. YOUNG: My name is Dave Young, I am a resident of Yorkville. I have children and my wife live here. Our children do attend Parkview, but that's not the -- the variance is not the reason.

I can tell you real world. I work next to a cannabis dispensary and I can tell you the negative effects it has had on the area in which I work.

I am a mechanic. We service a lot of police cars as part of our service to the community, and I can tell you that talking to them after the dispensary went in, the crime rate went up.

I can tell you the vagrancy that's happened in our area. The little things, catalytic converters missing, things like that.

Now, that may not directly be because of the cannabis, but I can tell you the crime rate has gone up.

It has directly affected the area in which we work. I have been a mechanic for about almost 30 years now and I can tell you that it would be wonderful if cannabis was just used in someone's home, but that's not the case. That's not real world.

When I started in this business, it was a rarity to see cannabis and cannabis paraphernalia inside a car. Now that the law has changed, it's probably one in every ten cars that I work on, strong odors, paraphernalia, so I can tell you that they are driving around using this product.

There is absolutely nothing -- While there are laws in place that keep these things away from children, there is absolutely nothing that stops someone who is legally able to go into this dispensary, get the product and then sell it to children.

Many of the products that they sell are designed for children, edibles and things

like that, that look like candy. There is nothing that stops them from doing that.

So I am very much opposed to this not only for the variance, but in Yorkville. It is not the message we want to send our children and it is certainly not the message that we want to send the community, that we want drugs in our community.

Thank you very much for your time. Have a good day.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Thank you.

(Applause.)

MARK VAN DENEND,

having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows:

MR. VAN DENEND: Good evening. My name is Mark Van Denend. I am a Yorkville area resident only for the last three years. We recently moved back to Illinois after a long, sad time in California.

I am speaking to you today because I have kids that attend a number of schools in Yorkville, including Parkview Christian Academy.

I am also a football coach in the

area, I have players on my team from Plano,
Yorkville, Oswego, Minooka, Montgomery, Aurora,
you name it, and so I am working with young
teenage men on a daily basis.

My wife and I are also licensed foster parents. We did foster care for four or five years out in California before we moved here where we also got licensed, and I am just telling you about all of those things because in all of those different situations I have seen the effects of marijuana use in the lives of individuals.

So my main objection to this request for a variance is not so much the proximity to the school, but it's the fact that there is a recreational sale of marijuana for any purpose.

I have never seen anything good from that.

Additionally, I forgot to mention I am also an architect, and when I was an architect in California, my firm did take on a number of dispensaries and also manufacturing facilities that dealt with marijuana processes, and while they often do have pretty incredible security, I have seen some of the drawings, and while there

are significant regulations, just like some of
the -- like Dave shared a second ago, I have also
seen crime increase in the areas around those
facilities almost a hundred percent of the time.

What's shocking to me as well is that even in California where we lived, we lived in the far northern part of the state in the area that's known as the Green Triangle, it is well-known for how well marijuana can grow, even there the proximity required was 1,000 feet to a school or a daycare facility or something like that, so just the fact that it's even smaller here blows my mind.

In dealing with moms whose kids have been taken away from them in foster care, oftentimes my wife and I have had the opportunity to support those moms in some way, shape or form while we were caring for their kids, and more often than not those moms were using, and more often than not, it was contributing to or exacerbating underlying mental illness.

If anybody cares to look even a little bit into regular marijuana use -- maybe you can make an argument on the medicinal side,

but recreational marijuana use, you know, I encourage you to go to Pub Med and just pore through any of the studies out there. It most definitely contributes to or exacerbates mental illness, psychoses, schizophrenia.

Those are things we don't need in our community. They are certainly not things we need for the young people in our community.

And then also again to Dave's point about driving while under the influence of marijuana, I don't know -- I mean, maybe people what to show their hands, how many times you have been driving the car and you can smell the car ahead of you.

(A show of hands.)

MR. VAN DENEND: That happens to me on almost a daily basis now and I can't even believe that. It's not safe. It's not safe.

So I appreciate the graphic that showed Montgomery, Oswego, Plainfield, and what I appreciated most about it was Yorkville was not on it, and I ask you to keep it that way.

(Applause.)

MIKE KREMPSKI,

having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows:

MR. KREMPSKI: Hi. I am Mike Krempski.

I live in Yorkville, I have some properties in

Yorkville proper, and I actually have some nieces
and nephews that go to Parkview. My children do
not.

But I would like to point out, and I hope you guys realize this -- I am assuming you do -- look at this room. Every commission and committee meeting and board meeting I go to, there is nobody there. The room is empty. It's me listening to the aldermen or commissioners or trustees, right? So you can see the community has an absolute concern of what's going on here.

One of the things that was brought up was about security and communication with their local police. Well, that's going to put a burden on our police department for our community, right?

So while they may be engaging in that, they are taking away from something else in the community or we are having to hire more staff, police, to be able to regulate what's

going on in the community, so I think there is real concerns.

The secondary effects, if anybody takes any time to look into it, they are real.

That's why this whole thing started with the Secondary Effects Doctrine, that these are real things that happen in communities, and it's proven over and over again, and the Supreme Court has ruled in favor of communities, towns, villages, to regulate certain businesses based on those effects.

So we just ask that you consider that in your decision tonight. We know it's only something that gets pushed forward, but your decision does have weight going forward.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Does anyone have any other topics that haven't been discussed tonight, any viewpoints on this that would like to come up?

ANTONIO J. SENAGORE,

having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows:

MR. SENAGORE: Good evening. My name is Tony Senagore. I am an attorney at the law firm of Hodges, Loizzi, Eisenhammer, Rodick & Kohn, counsel for the Parkview Christian Academy, and I just wanted to make a couple points. These are raised in my letter, but I just wanted to raise a couple points that were raised in the two letters sent to the City earlier.

First, the applicant has not shown compliance with pertinent Illinois statutes on advertising and signage located so close to school grounds.

The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act prohibits placing an advertisement of cannabis or a cannabis infused product in any form or through any medium within 1,000 feet of the perimeter of school grounds.

The consume Cannabis company is not the name of a registered company according to my search of the Illinois Secretary of State in Illinois, it's a trade name, and if the variance for the signage is granted in this case, the applicant would be effectively placing signage literally encouraging onlookers to consume

cannabis within 1,000 feet of a school.

Moreover, the applicant has not demonstrated that they are -- how the applicant would operate its business without any interior signage or how the applicant can operate a dispensary without any advertising. Therefore, the applicant has not shown compliance with state law.

In addition, the applicant has
failed to satisfy the requirements for a
variation. One of the requirements under the
ordinance is that the applicant must show a
particular hardship would result because of the
physical surroundings, shape or topographical
conditions of the subject property as
distinguished from a mere convenience if the
strict letter of the regulations were carried
out.

According to some of the case law cited in the letter, a particular hardship does not mean a self-imposed hardship or that a piece of property is better adapted for the forbidden use or that a variation would be for the owner's profit.

Here the applicant knew or should have known of the signage requirements before it sought to occupy the subject property.

The 500-foot distance requirement applies generally to all properties that are located 500 feet from a school, and the applicant has not and cannot show any physical surroundings, shape or topographical conditions require variation. Therefore, on that basis the variation request -- request for variation should be denied.

In addition, the applicant must establish that the variation will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to other property or improvements in the neighborhood in which the property is located.

There are several studies cited in the letter showing the negative effects of cannabis business, and the ten or so speakers tonight and the additional people in the audience are -- should receive credit from the Commission as evidence that this would negatively impact other properties in the neighborhood and the public welfare.

And, finally, relatedly, the requirement for a special use also involves the consideration of -- that the change -- the special use I should say serves the public health, safety, morals, comfort and general welfare.

Again, based on the information presented in the letter and the sincerely held views of the speakers tonight, the Commission can credit that as evidence that allowing the special use to allow a dispensary would not serve the general welfare.

Finally, granting the variation here would create a slippery slope that would justify the use of other adult-oriented uses in other parts of the city that are not desired.

This is a generally applicable requirement and the Commission should not be revisiting a generally applicable requirement, such as the 500-foot distance requirement from schools, in the context of the variation.

For these reasons and the other reasons expressed in our letter, the Academy would ask that the variations and the special use

be denied.

2 Thank you.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Thank you, sir.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: All right. So we are going to move on with the -- Would you like to say something? Sorry.

MS. LINNEMANN: I have something I would like to say.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Yes, ma'am.

ANNELIESE LINNEMANN,

having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows:

MS. LINNEMANN: Hi. My name is

Anneliese Linnemann. I am 16 years old and I am
a junior at Parkview Christian Academy, in Upper
Campus.

One thing that I worry about is the kind of company that this would bring to the area around the school. We have already had a situation happen at school with a suspicious man, and thanks to students that said something, the person was stopped. I am worried that with a place like this so close to school, more things

like that could happen.

Another thing is natural human curiosity. If I had never heard about this place before, maybe I would want to see what it was about, maybe I would become hooked on vape, marijuana or something worse, and then my life would rapidly down-spiral into something I couldn't control, and I am worried that something like that will happen to my classmates and younger individuals at the school that wouldn't know anything about it and the dangers of drugs.

Third, 1 Corinthians 15:33 from the Bible says that bad company corrupts good morals. What will happen to the area around the school if this business is put into place?

What is Yorkville doing to make sure that my classmates are safe, that my teachers are safe, and I would personally like to know if Yorkville has a plan for that, because I live in Sugar Grove, just 15 minutes to Yorkville, and I am already worried that maybe some seniors or people that are able to buy drugs or alcohol will become curious and then will get bad grades or something bad might happen to them.

1 Thank you for listening. 2 (Applause.) 3 CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Young lady. Hey, young lady. That was very brave of you to get up 5 and do that. Thank you. 6 MR. REIS: She literally wrote that right now, sitting here listening to all you guys talk. It hit her that hard and she wrote that. 8 9 (Applause.) 10 CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Thank you. 11 sorry, petitioners. Yes. MITCHEL KAY, 12 13 having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows: 14 15 MR. KAY: Hey, everyone. My name is Mitch Kay. I am the attorney for the petitioner. 16 17 I am the bad guy tonight I guess. 18 I love these meetings. It's an 19 opportunity to see the community, to hear your 20 concerns. They are all well received. 21 I do want to go over a few items 22 because there is maybe a little confusion on some 23 perspectives. I want to go through very quickly

the standards for variation.

24

First, particular hardship. This property has been vacant for two, three years. This is zoned correctly, we are permitted to apply for a special use permit variance, go through this entire process. We respect, you know, the town listening to us and taking everything we have submitted to heart and, again, listening to the town.

There is no other similarly situated property. I want to remind the town that the church is a non-conforming use in this zone without a variance, and to my knowledge the church came in with a threat that they would be able to work there, have a school there, under the guise of suing the town if they didn't permit them to operate. They also came in with another letter threatening to sue.

We are data driven. We want to make sure everyone is very well aware, there are subjective opinions and then there are objective, concrete facts.

One, we are not marketing anything.

A sign is a designation of our store, nothing

more than that. You cannot see into the store,

so anything in the store cannot be seen from outside. No one under the age of 21 that is outside the -- anyone outside the store cannot see what's going on inside the store.

Security is incredibly tight. We are compliant with all regulations. These three are variances. These are ordinances within the town, they are not state regulations. We have to be compliant with all state regulations in order to operate.

In every municipality that we have a store in, we have enhanced security, we have a great relationship with the police department, and, in fact, in our facility in Show Low, Arizona, a heavily Mormon community, we have extended our hours because it's been that spotless, and that's how we act as a company. That's what we do.

Your town passed a law to permit one dispensary, we are asking for your consideration that we be granted this opportunity. We are at most de minimus distance from the required 500-foot setback, and I'm not going to formally ask you to look into it, but I did raise in my

letter, by the black letter of your ordinance, the measurement is from facility to property line, which is over 500 feet, which you guys can discuss on your own whether you want to look at it differently, but that would put us out of even needing a variance for that.

Slippery -- Is Mr. Senagore here?

Slippery slope argument, first year of law

school? It's not a valid argument. We can't go

on subjective Reefer Madness from the 1960's and
think this is the same thing.

MR. GASH: That's disrespectful.

MR. KAY: It's not.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yes, it is.

16 CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Point of order.

MR. KAY: Respectfully, we want to have concrete, objective facts. We want to discuss with you what's going on. I also --

MS. KREMPSKI: Are you addressing the board?

22 MR. KAY: I am addressing the entire room.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Please.

MR. KAY: I'm letting you hear what's going on, so -- I gave you guys time to speak, please also be courteous to my time. Thank you.

We are not here in the 1960's in Reefer Madness taking, you know, subjective opinions on what a few individuals think is going on.

There are 20,000 residents of Yorkville. I am happy some showed up, that's wonderful. That is a minority compared to the total folks in this town that would have otherwise shown up if there was that much concern.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Where are the other ones speaking up for it?

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Point of order.

MS. LAMB: Let's keep the comments --

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Yeah, comments have to keep to their -- You guys had your opportunity, sorry.

MR. KAY: So going down the steps for a variation, this owner cannot find another suitable tenant. It's been two to three years since anyone has been on the property.

The conditions upon which the petition for a variation is based are unique to this property. It is in the correct zoning district. We cannot build anywhere else in the town to similarly situate ourselves to conduct our business.

If we cannot receive these variances or approval to operate, yes, we would have a significant hardship in not being able to conduct business.

And no, based on many other studies -- and some of the studies cited were based on Portland, Oregon, which legalized every drug, open use of needles, heroin, which they are now trying to call back, that's not Yorkville.

Those studies on secondary environment are looking at drastically different environments, and that needs to be considered when we're looking at how this could impact or not impact your community.

And, again, the proposed variation will not impair any adequate supply of light or air to the adjacent property.

I have submitted my letter in

response to Mr. Senagore before. His last letter, again, was filled with inaccuracies and, you know, assumptions on what we do.

Consume Cannabis is a trade name.

We often mark with just Consume, that's just how
we do business, so I didn't really understand
that point.

But, again, we thank everyone for your time and we -- again, sorry if you thought I was being disrespectful, but we appreciate everyone coming out to listen to us, and if you have further questions, we are here to answer them.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Thank you. Are there any questions from the commissioners for the petitioner?

MR. WILLIAMS: Not at this time.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: All right. So we are going to conclude the public hearing. Oh, I'm sorry, petitioner -- would you like to have your responses to the standards entered into the public record?

MR. KAY: Sure.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Very good. All

right. Since all public testimony regarding this petition has been taken, may I have a motion to close the taking of testimony in this public hearing?

MR. KRKLJUS: It's not all been taken, though.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Excuse me?

MR. KRKLJUS: It's not all been taken.

I think there are other people that wanted to speak, but you are closing arguments, so I don't think you have taken all the arguments.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: So that's why I was asking if anyone had any topics that weren't already discussed. You had something that --

MR. KRKLJUS: I found something in Illinois law that I'd like to say.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Okay. We have already moved on past that. I apologize for that.

MR. KRKLJUS: So you are not taking -CHAIRMAN VINYARD: I'm sorry. Is there
any way we can -- Is there any way we can go
back?

MR. KRKLJUS: I would like to speak.

1 MS. LAMB: Yeah, you can -- Let's --2 CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Hold on. Let me talk 3 to legal. MS. LAMB: It's okay, you can go back. 5 CHAIRMAN VINYARD: I can go back to 6 that? MS. LAMB: Yes, we have not closed the 8 hearing yet. If there was somebody who had 9 something additional to say, that would be fine. 10 CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Then you have the 11 floor. My apologies. I am not a lawyer. 12 MIKE KRKLJUS, JR., 13 having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows: 14 15 MR. KRKLJUS: My name is Mike Krkljus, I 16 am a parent of a student at Parkview Christian. 17 We live in Montgomery. There is one point that I 18 wanted to make. 19 I am a contractor, and through the 20 course of my contracting career I have done some commercial work. One of the things that I am 21 familiar with, sir, you mentioned HVAC. I'm not 22

sure exactly what your HVAC upgrades are, but one

23

24

of the things that Illinois mandates for

recreational use and the consumption areas, private property, with owner's consent, so I don't know if you are going to be buying that building or you are going to be renting that building.

The other thing is an approved dispensary. An approved dispensary is an approved consumption area. I don't know how your HVAC works, but nail salons are required to have above and beyond HVAC systems to expel all the fumes and the gases that they generate. It goes into the open air.

If we are -- if we mandate

1,000 feet for advertising, 500 feet from

schools, what do we do by smells and aromas that

make their way out of the business into the

surrounding area? If you can answer that

regarding HVAC.

But I did want to point out, was it your opinion or was it fact to say that Parkview had threatened Yorkville?

MR. KAY: It's my understanding.

MR. KRKLJUS: Okay. So that's your understanding. Unless you have proof to back

that up, that's hearsay. I am not a lawyer either, but to come up and discredit a school that is a pillar of the community, that raises young people to be pillars of the community, to give back through organizational structure, through community service, you name it, Parkview is doing it to help the community, so to attack a school like that --

MS. LAMB: Okay. Let's stay on topic, please. Thank you.

MR. KRKLJUS: Yeah, that was a personal thing that I didn't like. But as a contractor, you mentioned HVAC. I would be curious to know what the HVAC abilities are of your business to filter what's going to be coming out of that business, because if advertising can't be within 1,000 feet, what do we do about the smell? That's a pretty strong advertisement if you ask me. So I'd like to point that out.

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: We will let you readdress it.

(Applause.)

CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Ma'am, please write your name down.

## COLLEEN MURPHY,

having been first duly sworn, testified from the podium as follows:

MS. MURPHY: My name is Colleen Murphy.

I own a business in Yorkville. I also am the founder of a non-profit organization that teaches children five and up how to identify predators online and in person.

The first point I would like to make is I think roughly six years ago I had to go before the City because I have a microblade license, which falls under the category of tattoo establishment, and the City of Yorkville told me at that time that they do not allow tattoo establishments in their town, that that is their discretion, and that they did not like what that would bring to the community. I just wanted to make that known.

And then also, this summer, with the non-profit work that I do, I went to the Crimes Against Children conference in Dallas and had the opportunity to sit down with the DEA who informed me -- and I am not sure of the exact numbers, but I can get them for you -- they are currently

1	finding in our country that children who are in
2	states where cannabis is being sold are roughly
3	nine times more likely to purchase illegally,
4	where it's, quote, more affordable for them, and
5	those drugs are being laced with Fentanyl and
6	things much more deadly than what cannabis is
7	being sold from the dispensary, and I think
8	that's something we really need to take into
9	consideration, especially when you consider that
10	it could be placed near a school.
11	(Applause.)
12	CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Thank you. Any
13	additions?
14	(No response.)
15	CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Anybody?
16	(No response.)
17	CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Going once, going
18	twice.
19	(No response.)
20	CHAIRMAN VINYARD: All right. Would you
21	like to respond to that?
22	MR. KAY: Yes.
23	CHAIRMAN VINYARD: Please.
24	MR. KAY: To your second question, just

to be clear, the first letter said that you would go through all avenues, including litigation.

This was not denied, so that was based on fact.

What you read from the regulation is accurate language, but it's related to a consumption lounge. We are not doing that.

There is no smoking allowed on premises.

So we have a normal -- well, we have a high-end air filtration system in general for all our facilities, but there is no smoking or any consumption of any sort of product on property at any time. It's strictly prohibited.

MR. KRKLJUS: Are you prepared to enforce people who do it in their car?

MR. KAY: Oh, yeah. No, we shepherd them off, off the property. We have our director of retail operations here as well if you have any additional direct questions, he is happy to answer them, but we -- you know, there are absolutely times when we get, you know, a few people that are unsavory and Mike and his team make sure they are not on our property and they are gone, but it's few and far between.

UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: What

24

STATE OF ILLINOIS )

(COUNTY OF LASALLE )

I, CHRISTINE M. VITOSH, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of Illinois, do hereby certify:

That previous to the commencement of any testimony heard, the witnesses were duly sworn to testify the whole truth concerning the matters herein;

That the foregoing public hearing transcript, Pages 1 through 68, was reported stenographically by me by means of machine shorthand, was simultaneously reduced to typewriting via computer-aided transcription under my personal direction, and constitutes a true record of the testimony given and the proceedings had;

That the said public hearing was taken before me at the time and place specified;

That I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel, nor a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel for any of the parties hereto, nor interested directly or indirectly in the outcome of this action.

I further certify that my certificate attached hereto applies to the original transcript and copies thereof signed and certified under my hand only. I assume no responsibility for the accuracy of any reproduced copies not made under my control or direction.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do hereunto set my hand at Leland, Illinois, this 15th day of October, 2024.

# Isl Christine M. Vitosh

CHRISTINE M. VITOSH, C.S.R. Certificate No. 084-02883.

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