

Dear Dr Phillip,

My name is [REDACTED]. I am the [REDACTED] cannabis dispensary and I represent the [REDACTED] cannabis dispensary. I am writing to request the full re-opening of smoking lounges in San Francisco. Since the Department of Public Health shut down smoking and vaping in our lounges, our business has drastically decreased, and we are prevented from providing people with a safe, legal space to consume their medicine. Due to the decrease in hospitalizations, as well as re-opening of indoor bars, restaurants, concert venues and hookah bars, coupled with the many safety precautions we take, we should be allowed to re-open to fully vaccinated individuals.

We provide a medicinal product for the community, as well as a safe, clean and legal space to consume it. When our lounges were shut down again on August 10th, 2021, there were 123 COVID related hospitalizations in the city; we remain shut down although the cases have decreased by nearly 50% to 66 hospitalizations (as of September 28th). With our lounges unavailable, people are forced to consume illegally on the street and in buildings where smoking may not be permitted, which is not only detrimental to the safety of the individual, but to the health of our community.

Our businesses have suffered greatly throughout the pandemic. Being cannabis dispensaries, we are unable to receive the same kinds of COVID relief options (e.g. tax breaks/credits and PPP loans) that non-cannabis businesses have qualified for throughout the pandemic. Being located on [REDACTED] respectively, our neighborhoods have been disproportionately impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. We depend on the patronage of tourists, visitors and those who work and shop in the neighborhoods. Most businesses in our area [REDACTED] are still working from home, causing the loss of a huge customer base for us. Hotels in our areas are closed and without a fully open lounge there is little incentive for people who live in other neighborhoods to come visit our shops. Furthermore, when our lounges re-opened in May 2021, we had to hire additional staff to meet demand. Now that the lounges have shut down again, we've been forced to lay off those employees, further decimating the local economy and preventing people that want to work from re-joining the work force.

Our lounges are extremely COVID safe. Our staff is 100% fully vaccinated. Not only were our HVAC systems approved by the Department of Public Health, but they use our HVAC specifications as the standard of air filtration in cannabis consumption lounges. We are literally the model of clean air in the city. No restaurant, hookah bar or concert venue have this requirement as part of their permit. Since the pandemic began, we've added additional portable fans and UV light air purifiers in all the lounge rooms, as per the request of the Department of Public Health. When the lounges were briefly re-opened, we enforced the vaccine mandate, social distancing and forbade the sharing of cannabis and cannabis consumption devices among consumers. With such precautions in place, we think that the lounge is extremely safe for cannabis consumption. We have always been on the forefront of cannabis consumption safety, a fact that can be verified by San Francisco Public Health. We have set a standard that is unparalleled in the cannabis industry and take meticulous steps to ensure safety and cleanliness in our lounges for our guests.

In conclusion, it is our position that our lounges are safe and an essential part of the community. We request that smoking, dabbing, and vaping be allowed so that we can continue to provide the public with a safe, clean, and comfortable place to consume.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.