

Roy B. Woolsey
26649 Snell Lane
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
Phone/Fax (650) 941 5236
Roy@WoolseyMail.com

11 December 2018

Planning Commission, City of Santa Rosa
c/o Planning & Economic Development Department
100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Room 3
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Reference: File No. CUP18-041

Dear Members of the Planning Commission of the City of Santa Rosa:

I have the notice published 12/2/18 regarding the 12/13/18 Planning Commission public hearing on the conditional use permit application to operate a medical and adult-use retail cannabis dispensary at 817 Russell Avenue, Suite C in Santa Rosa. I am unfortunately unable to attend the Planning Commission public hearing in person, so the purpose of this letter is to provide comment on the application.

I am the owner of the Russell Court Apartments at 833 Russell Avenue, very close to the proposed cannabis dispensary and just separated from it by one other apartment complex. I want to express my opposition to the proposed cannabis dispensary. I am opposed to the dispensary for several reasons, which should be considered as part of the application process:

The immediate neighborhood on Russell Avenue has unfortunately been in decline in recent years. There has been a dramatic increase in homeless people in the local area -- people who vandalize my apartment complex and resident's vehicles and property, break into the apartment utility closets for shelter, and cause other damage and problems. As a result, I had to spend about thirty five thousand dollars(!) to install vehicle and pedestrian gates and fencing to keep homeless, vandals, burglars and other unwelcome people out of the apartment complex and maintain a safe environment for my tenants. I believe a cannabis dispensary will draw more unsavory people into the area.

There is a large Motel 6 on the block, just behind the Russell Court Apartments and adjacent to the proposed cannabis dispensary. People shoot drugs at that motel, and I have experienced a number of drug addicts jumping over the fence between my apartments and the motel, and escaping through my apartment parking area. I fear that adding a cannabis dispensary will just make these problems of drugs and undesirable people worse.

I want the Russell Court Apartments to be a welcoming and safe community where residents want to live, but the type of tenant I want to attract generally does not want to live near a cannabis dispensary. This kind of establishment will result in a reduction in rental values as well as property values and further contribute to a decline of the immediate neighborhood.

In summary, I hope the conditional use permit application will not be approved by the Planning Commission.

Yours very truly,
/s/
Roy B. Woolsey