

## Fwd: Warrant Article 7

Mike Sandman <[msandman@brooklinema.gov](mailto:msandman@brooklinema.gov)>

Tue 10/12/2021 10:08 PM

To: Lisa Portscher <[lportscher@brooklinema.gov](mailto:lportscher@brooklinema.gov)>

Please distribute to the AC & post it.

Thanks -

Mike

Mike Sandman

TMM3 & Advisory Committee chair

[msandman@brooklinema.gov](mailto:msandman@brooklinema.gov)

+1.617.513.8908 - mobile & text

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Anthony Ishak <[aishakpharmd@yahoo.com](mailto:aishakpharmd@yahoo.com)>

**Subject:** Warrant Article 7

**Date:** October 12, 2021 at 22:05:36 EDT

**To:** Lisa Portscher <[lportscher@brooklinema.gov](mailto:lportscher@brooklinema.gov)>

Hello Members of the Select Board and Advisory Committee

My name is Anthony Ishak and I am a resident of Brookline. I am writing in regards to Warrant Article 7 which seeks to expand Marijuana licensure for 2 additional stores. Although most of you know that I support legalized marijuana retail stores as a matter of risk mitigation from previous warrant articles and hearings; I feel that expanding beyond 4 stores in our Town would be excessive based on our size, demand, location, and current licenses. Although I understand the positive intent of increasing diversification of ownership, this was a topic that had been discussed for years and should've been acted upon when the other licenses were being considered and ultimately granted. Globally our town should be looking at methods of increasing retail ownership representation by women and underrepresented groups, but there are other areas that this can be implemented now that this opportunity was missed. When there was discussion of a retail store in the St. Mary's vicinity I had mentioned that it would be advisable to have a study when the licenses are granted to see how this impacts our local population including usage (underage and reports from local ED and medical facilities), crime rate (from illicit sales and as a result of legal sales), and impact on youth. This would be the time to consider it before attempting to add more licenses. There are MPH students and medical students who can be utilized for a quick 3 month study that can provide informative data. We have seen over the past few years that in this state once marijuana restrictions are implemented it is difficult to go back and amend them. Also the products and potency have gone well beyond what would be considered to meet the appropriate clinical or even social need. During the pandemic mental health conditions worsened and use of non-prescriptive substances to self-treat increased. I truly believe that it is important to have standardized product available in a safe environment, but at the same time worry about what was originally a solution to reduce risk is contributing to an unintended harm. The better recourse would be to make sure that the current businesses are addressing the initial need-legalized, standardized product--rather than the need to have an increased customer base that is built upon dangerous products.

Thanks in advance for your efforts to make our Town a better place to live  
Anthony

**Anthony Ishak Pharm.D. BCPS**

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