

Committees:

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Member

Budget & Finance

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Ad Hoc on Waste Reduction & Recycling

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Email: Paul.Koretz@lacity.org



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, Fifth District

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May 23, 2019

Mayor John D'Amico
West Hollywood City Council
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069
Sent Via Email: council@weho.org

RE: Protect Legacy Cannabis Retail in West Hollywood

Dear Mayor D'Amico and Members of the West Hollywood City Council:

I am writing on behalf of my constituents who work and/or upon occasion spend time in the City of West Hollywood. We believe strongly that good jobs should be protected, and we are greatly troubled that some local residents may lose their jobs in the cannabis industry as it expands to provide access to recreational use. As one who has been involved in the issue for a long time, I support well-run cannabis businesses with strong labor standards for jobs produced in the industry.

At the end of last year, workers of one of the existing cannabis shops were organized by the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770. On behalf of these workers, UFCW 770 negotiated one of the strongest collective bargaining agreements for cannabis workers in the country. They negotiated for a living wage, health care, paid vacation, sick leave and holidays, and a 40-hour work-week guarantee for full time workers. However, the workers since have unexpectedly found out their shop did not receive its adult licensing permits with the City. If this store is forced to reduce in size due to the denial of its adult use licenses, some of the workers may stand to lose the benefits of a contract in West Hollywood.

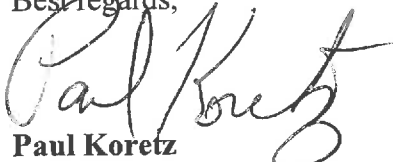
I have long known West Hollywood to be a progressive city committed to protecting workers' rights and benefits, and I strongly urge you to uphold these values by standing with working people in the community by protecting these existing jobs in this evolving industry. West Hollywood's actions will set a precedent for other jurisdictions. I strongly recommend that West

Hon. John D'Amico
May 24, 2019
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Hollywood's four legacy cannabis shops receive their adult use operations permits so they can stay in operation not only for the community, but also for their employees. They are in good standing in the community and will create much-needed tax revenue for the City.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Best regards,



Paul Koretz
Councilmember, 5th District



May 28, 2019

Mayor John D'Amico
West Hollywood City Council
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069
Sent Via Email: council@weho.org

Dear Mayor D'Amico and Members of the West Hollywood City Council,

We are writing on behalf of the members of the Hollywood Chapter of the National Organization for Women (Hollywood NOW). Hollywood NOW is a membership organization committed to institutionalizing intersectional gender equity. Our work transgresses over social boundaries and walls built to imprint, reinforce and protect implicit stereotype biases that damage all of us. As a progressive, intersectional feminist organization we advocate for solutions that recognize that individuals face multiple intersecting discriminations/privileges based on race, sex, gender, sexuality and other statuses. We stand to work to eliminate institutional privilege, discrimination, and bias.

Our members live, work, and spend their leisure time in the City of West Hollywood, and we care deeply about the City's future. We believe strongly that good jobs should be protected, and we are greatly troubled that some local residents may lose their jobs in the cannabis industry as it is moving towards access of recreational use.

At the end of last year, workers of one of the existing cannabis shops organized with their union, the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770, in negotiating one of the strongest collective bargaining agreements for cannabis workers in the country. They negotiated for a living wage, health care, paid vacation, sick leave and holidays, and a 40 hour guarantee for full time workers. But shortly thereafter the workers unexpectedly found out their shop did not receive their adult licensing permits with the City. If this store is forced to reduce in size due to the denial of adult use license, these workers' voices will be diminished, and some may stand to lose the benefits of a contract in West Hollywood. It may also send the wrong message to other workers who choose to organize for improvements to their working conditions and hold their employers to high standards.

We believe that West Hollywood is a progressive city committed to protecting workers' rights and benefits, and we strongly urge you to uphold these values by standing with working people in the community by protecting these existing jobs in this budding industry for legal, adult-use cannabis. West Hollywood's actions will set a precedent that others are watching in the region and across the state. The City should not miss its opportunity to support the growth of good jobs in the community.



We strongly recommend that the four existing cannabis shops receive their adult use operations and stay in operation for the good of the workers and broader community.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Best regards,

John Erickson
President
Hollywood NOW



JEFFREY PRANG
ASSESSOR
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 320
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2770
assessor.lacounty.gov
(213) 974-3101



May 20, 2019

The Honorable John D'Amico
Mayor, City of West Hollywood
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069
Sent Via Email: council@weho.org

Dear Mayor D'Amico and Members of the West Hollywood City Council:

Protect Legacy Cannabis Retail in West Hollywood

I am writing on behalf of the current employees of the existing West Hollywood cannabis businesses. While I appreciate the City's efforts to establish new licenses and regulations reflecting the recent changes in state law, I believe strongly that good jobs should be protected. During my tenure on the city council, the City established cooperative and precedent setting policies and practices with these existing businesses, relationships which I believe merits special consideration.

At the end of last year, workers of one of the existing cannabis shops organized with the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770, in negotiating one of the strongest collective bargaining agreements for cannabis workers in the country. They negotiated for a living wage, health care, paid vacation, sick leave and holidays, and a 40-hour guarantee for full time workers. But their shop did not receive an adult licensing permit with the City. If this store is forced to reduce in size due to the denial of adult use license, these jobs could be impacted, as well and diminish hard earned rights for West Hollywood workers in the cannabis industry. This may inadvertently send the wrong message to other workers in the cannabis industry who choose to organize.

West Hollywood is a progressive city that has always been committed to protecting workers' rights and benefits, and I urge you to uphold these values by protecting these existing jobs in this budding industry for legal, adult-use cannabis. As in so many cases, West Hollywood's actions will set a precedent across the region and the state. The City should not miss its opportunity to support the growth of good jobs in the community and set the standard for best employment practices.

I urge you to give strong consideration to the four legacy cannabis shops for the good of the workers and broader community. They have been fine business citizens in the community for many years and should be given the opportunity to grow and prosper with the City. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY PRANG
Assessor



514 Shatto Place, Suite 270 ★ Los Angeles ★ California ★ 90020

Telephone: (213) 252-4411 ★ Fax: (213) 252-4422

Email: contactces@earthlink.net ★ Website: www.CESinAction.org

April 24, 2019

Mayor John D'Amico
Mayor Pro Temp Lindsey Horvath
Council Member John Heilman
Council Member Lauren Meister
Council Member John Duran
West Hollywood City Council
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Dear Mayor D'Amico and Members of the West Hollywood City Council,

On behalf of West Hollywood members of the Coalition for Economic Survival (CES) I am writing to express our strong belief that good jobs should be protected, and we are greatly troubled that some local residents may lose their cannabis industry jobs.

At the end of last year, workers of one of the existing cannabis shops organized with their union, the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770, in negotiating one of the strongest collective bargaining agreements for cannabis workers in the country. They negotiated for a living wage, health care, paid vacation, sick leave and holidays, and a 40 hour guarantee for full time workers. But shortly thereafter the workers unexpectedly found out their shop did not receive their adult licensing permits with the City. If this store is forced to reduce in size due to the denial of adult use license, these workers' voices will be diminished, and some may stand to lose the benefits of a contract in West Hollywood. It may also send the wrong message to other workers who choose to organize for improvements to their working conditions and hold their employers to high standards.

As a progressive city we know that West Hollywood is committed to protecting workers' rights and benefits. Thus, CES strongly urges you to uphold these values by standing with working people in the community by protecting these existing jobs in this budding industry for legal, adult-use cannabis. West Hollywood's actions will set a precedent that others are watching in the region and across the state. The City should not miss its opportunity to support the growth of good jobs in the community. We strongly recommend that the four existing cannabis shops receive their adult use operations and stay in operation for the good of the workers and broader community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Larry Gross
Executive Director



April 25, 2019

Mayor John D'Amico
West Hollywood City Council
8300 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Dear Mayor D'Amico and Members of the West Hollywood City Council,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Los Angeles County Democratic Party. Our members live, work, and spend their leisure time in the City of West Hollywood, and we care deeply about the City's future. We believe strongly that good jobs should be protected, and we are greatly troubled that some local residents may lose their jobs in the cannabis industry as it is moving towards access of recreational use.

At the end of last year, workers of one of the existing cannabis shops organized with their union, the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 770, in negotiating one of the strongest collective bargaining agreements for cannabis workers in the country. They negotiated for a living wage, health care, paid vacation, sick leave and holidays, and a 40-hour guarantee for full time workers. But shortly thereafter the workers unexpectedly found out their shop did not receive their adult licensing permits with the City. If this store is forced to reduce in size due to the denial of adult use license, these workers' voices will be diminished, and some may stand to lose the benefits of a contract in West Hollywood. It may also send the wrong message to other workers who choose to organize for improvements to their working conditions and hold their employers to high standards.

We believe that West Hollywood is a progressive city committed to protecting workers' rights and benefits, and we strongly urge you to uphold these values by standing with working people in the community by protecting these existing jobs in this budding industry for legal, adult-use cannabis. West Hollywood's actions will set a precedent that others are watching in the region and across the state. The City should not miss its opportunity to support the growth of good jobs in the community. We strongly recommend that the four existing cannabis shops receive their adult use operations and stay in operation for the good of the workers and broader community.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Gonzalez'.

Mark J. Gonzalez
Chair, Los Angeles County Democratic Party

**UNITED FOOD
AND COMMERCIAL
WORKERS UNION**

Main Office
630 Shatto Place
Los Angeles, CA 90005
(800) UFCW-770
UFCW770.org

Branch Offices
Arroyo Grande
Bakersfield
Camarillo
Harbor City
Huntington Park
Santa Barbara
Santa Clarita

May 20, 2019

Mayor John D'Amico
West Hollywood City Council
8300 Santa Monica Boulevard
West Hollywood, CA 90069

Dear Mayor D'Amico and the West Hollywood City Councilmembers:

We are writing on behalf of the members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 770, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Movie Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts (IATSE) Local 80, and the Los Angeles and Orange Counties Construction and Building Trades Council. Our members live, work, and spend their leisure time in City of West Hollywood. Unfortunately, our members may be adversely affected by the current recommendations for the City's Cannabis Ordinance.

In October 2018, the workers of MedMen West Hollywood selected UFCW Local 770 as their bargaining representative to give them a voice at work. During December of 2018, these workers, joined with their union, negotiated one of the strongest collective bargaining agreements for cannabis workers in the country. Amongst the key provisions in the contract are living wages for all employees (\$16.00 - \$18.50 per hour, plus an additional \$4.00 per hour premium for lead positions), fully-paid health care for both full and part-time workers, paid vacation, sick leave and holidays, a 40 hour guarantee for full time workers, and an expeditious grievance and binding arbitration procedure and Joint Labor Management Committee for resolving disputes.

If MedMen's West Hollywood store is forced to reduce in size due to the denial of adult use license, these workers' voices will be diminished and may stand to lose their contract in West Hollywood. This possibility undermines the workers' choice, may send the wrong message to other workers who choose to organize for improvements to their working conditions.

It is the intent of UFCW Local 770 and its labor allies to ensure that the other existing medical/adult use cannabis shops, who historically served West Hollywood community, will meet the goals of Prop 64, enter into labor peace agreements, give their workers a voice at work, and provide the quality jobs.

Mayor John D'Amico

May 20, 2019

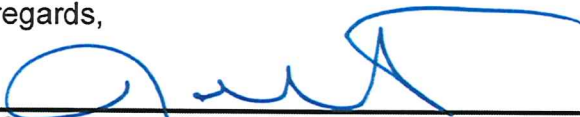
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Giving them an opportunity to remain open gives their workers the opportunity to achieve these ends. Indeed, it is our hope that establishing these higher standards will positively impact the new cannabis businesses as they come on line.

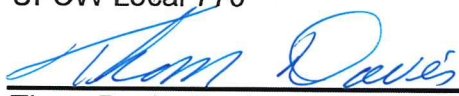
West Hollywood is a progressive city committed to protecting workers' rights and benefits. We strongly urge you to uphold these values by standing with working people in your community by protecting these existing jobs. West Hollywood's actions will set a precedent for others across the state. West Hollywood should not miss its opportunity to support the growth of good jobs in the city.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Best regards,



John Grant, President
UFCW Local 770



Thom Davis, Business Manager
IATSE Local 80



Ron Miller, Executive Secretary
Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council