



SAN
FRANCISCO
**CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

August 31, 2017

The Honorable London Breed, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room #244
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Oppose File #170865: Zoning – Interim Moratorium on Medical Cannabis Dispensaries

Dear Supervisor Breed:

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing 2,500 local businesses with over 200,000 employees, opposes Supervisor Malia Cohen's proposed urgency ordinance that would establish an interim zoning moratorium on the approval of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries (MCDs) in San Francisco for 45 days.

The San Francisco Chamber is on record as supporting both the medical cannabis industry as well as the voter-approved state measure that legalizes cannabis sales for adult use beginning in January 2018. The cannabis industry will be an economic driver in the city, across California and in other states throughout the country, producing new jobs as well as tax revenues that will support public infrastructure, social services and civic programs. We should be doing everything we can to continue the momentum of this growing industry. A moratorium on approval of MCDs, which may extend beyond 45 days, is unnecessary, and could set the city back in its efforts to establish protocols and oversight of the cannabis industry here in San Francisco.

It is important that the Planning Commission continue to review and rule on MCD permit applications in the course of setting up the city's new Office of Cannabis, which the Board of Supervisors recently approved. Those projects already underway should have the opportunity to move ahead and not be held up while the Board of Supervisors makes its decision on the proposed moratorium.

San Francisco can proceed effectively and expeditiously with setting up management systems for the cannabis industry without putting a moratorium in place. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce urges the Board of Supervisors to oppose this urgency ordinance when it comes before you for a vote.

Sincerely,

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy

cc: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, to be distributed to all Supervisors; Mayor Ed Lee; John Rahaim, San Francisco Planning Department; Rich Hillis, San Francisco Planning Commission; Nicole Elliott, San Francisco Office of Cannabis; State Senator Scott Wiener