

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Agenda Management Support](#)
Subject: Item 7 and 16 comment_Aliah, M
Date: Monday, March 24, 2025 4:52:51 PM

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From: Madeline Aliah <madelinealiah@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 4:44 PM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Public Comment for Ordinance Amending Local Cannabis Policy Item #7 and Item #16

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Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors,

Hello! My name is Madeline Aliah. You may know me as a Queer Youth Leadership Awardee, Tedx Santa Cruz Speaker and local author. I learned recently that you are considering loosening laws on the consumption of cannabis at farms, retail stores, and other public spaces. I also learned about a proposed Cannabis Cafe. This worries me, and I am respectfully hoping you will reassess the facts and reconsider. I have personal stakes in this and first I must acknowledge my bias. I was driven to school from the years 2015 to 2022(from nine to sixteen) in a car my dad turned into a hotbox, and over the course of those years I developed chronic symptoms of sinusitis and heart pain. The secondhand smoke culminated in me beginning to choke on my own phlegm in 2022. The year is 2025, and I have not stopped choking. I made a career for myself in local advocacy while holding back the urge to gag every minute.

As you can imagine, I am concerned by the prospect of the already lax cannabis policy being loosened. I would be able to understand the prospect of cannabis being allowed in indoor spaces where it can be regulated if cannabis behaved like alcohol, but that is not the case at all. Tthrough any reasonably cheap ventilation, cannabis would travel through pipes out into the surrounding sidewalks and alleyways. There is nothing stopping people from becoming intoxicated, leaving, driving, loitering, and otherwise tracking the odor with them out into the city. You cannot allow smoking without allowing smoke, and if you allow for looser legislation on the issue the amount of youths struggling with medical consequences is going to add up.

I love Santa Cruz, and I am proud to be from this city. I don't believe the degree of freedom and acceptance here can be found anywhere else in the world, but that means this place has a standard to live up to. The houses are expensive and the tourism brings home money because people want to live here and be here, and adding even more cannabis to the mixture will make it so only people who want cannabis can enjoy the beauty of the city and its community.

With great respect,

Madeline Aliah