



City of Somerville

# OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

City Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

**TO:** Mayor Ballantyne  
**FROM:** Emily Hutchings, MAC Liaison  
**CC:** Chief of Staff Nikki Spencer; City Clerk Kim Wells; OSPCD Executive Director Tom Galligani  
**DATE:** October 13, 2023  
**RE:** Update on eleventh round of HCA applications

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The Marijuana Advisory Committee (MAC) reviewed one new application that was received as part of the eleventh round of applications. The MAC is not recommending any applications for Host Community Agreements (HCAs) at this time. The MAC's thoughts on their review of the application are below.

**This entity scored fewer than 16.75 points and are not recommended for HCAs at this time:**

Restorative Cannabis, 499 Broadway, Marijuana Retailer, total score: 9.5

Restorative Cannabis (the "Applicant") previously submitted applications for an HCA as part of Rounds 7 and 9. Since then, the Applicant has submitted a new application and attempted to address the concerns the MAC expressed during the previous rounds of review. The ownership has not changed. The MAC's comments on the current application are below.

*Location: 4*

- The property is in the Mid Rise 4 zoning district in the Magoun Square neighborhood. It is approximately 0.4 miles away from the Magoun Square and Ball Square GLX stops. The location is also well served by bus routes.
- The location is on an existing main street and within an existing commercial square.

*Physical Space: 2.75*

- The MAC has no concerns with the proposed security and delivery system, and the Applicant demonstrated willingness to collaborate with the City of Somerville regarding any potential concerns.
- The physical space would necessitate splitting the building at the Somerville-Medford line to keep the marijuana retail business entirely within the Somerville municipal boundaries. The MAC expressed concern that the proposal would create an inefficient use of the physical space. While the Applicant stated the portion of the space located within Medford would be used for community space, the proposal did not clearly demonstrate how that space would be designed, accessed, or managed.

- The MAC noted that minimal improvements were proposed for the exterior of the building, and the exterior design would not provide further contribution to the urban design of Magoun Square.

*Operations/Industry Knowledge: 1.75*

- The Applicant team did not demonstrate any direct operations or cannabis industry knowledge and appeared heavily reliant upon their consultants.
- The Applicant confirmed hiring local residents would be prioritized.

*Community Involvement: 1*

- The Applicant team did not demonstrate any connections to the Somerville community nor any actions to build relationships with the community.
- Community engagement to date has been minimal, with engagement to date performed solely by a consultant.
- No members of the Applicant team are located within or near Somerville.