



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

CAROLE A. FIOLA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
SIXTH BRISTOL DISTRICT

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 236
TEL: (617) 722-2430
Carole.Fiola@MAhouse.gov

Vice Chair
Committee on Bills in the Third Reading

Committees:
Ways and Means
Judiciary
Economic Development and
Emerging Technologies

September 10, 2019

Cannabis Control Commission
Chairman Steven Hoffman
101 Federal Street, 13th floor
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Chairman Steven Hoffman and Commissioners:

As we know you are aware, the Mayor of the City of Fall River has been recently charged with bribery, extortion conspiracy, extortion and aiding and abetting pertaining to the issuance of letters of non-opposition and community host agreements to operate medical or retail marijuana facilities within the City of Fall River.

The associated charges brought forth by the United States District Attorney in an eleven-count indictment indicate that the process of securing such licenses and host agreements may have been undermined. The alleged actions of the Mayor in the issuance of the letters of non-opposition and the negotiation of community host agreements appear to have been compromised.

As such, there are many outstanding questions regarding how the letters of non-opposition and community host agreements were issued and whether the documents were issued in a legally binding fashion given the circumstances. In addition, questions arise as to whether other parties interested in establishing retail and/or medical marijuana facilities were denied letters of non-opposition because they refused to participate in the alleged nefarious action of Mayor Correia. Questions arise as to what recourse these parties have against the City and/or the Cannabis Commission if licenses were to be approved under these conditions?

Given these facts, we respectfully request that the approval of any pending retail or medical marijuana applications in the City of Fall River be temporarily delayed and a moratorium on the issuance of such licenses be enacted until such time that the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission has an opportunity to fully digest, investigate and make a determination as to what impact the alleged actions identified within the indictment had on the issuance of letters of non-opposition and community host agreement negotiations.

The City of Fall River is facing a most serious challenge. We ask that you take this necessary step to ensure that trust, confidence and integrity in the licensing process can be restored here and throughout the Commonwealth.

We look forward to communicating with you.

Sincerely,



Carole Fiola
State Representative
6th Bristol



Paul Schmid
State Representative
8th Bristol



Alan Silvia
State Representative
7th Bristol

CC:

Commissioner Kay Doyle
Commissioner Jennifer Flanagan
Commissioner Britte McBride
Commissioner Shaleen Title
House Speaker Robert DeLeo
Chairman of Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy David Rogers
State Senator Michael Rodrigues
City Council President Cliff Ponte
Corporation Counsel Joseph Macy