

City of Annapolis logo

**WARD 3 ALDERWOMAN REPORT ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION, AND AMENDMENT 5;
AND AMENDMENTS 1-4**

To: Mayor Gavin Buckley; Alderwoman Elly Tierney, Ward 1; Alderwoman Karma O'Neill, Ward 2; Alderwoman Sheila M. Finlayson, Ward 4; Alderman Brooks Schandelmeier, Ward 5; Alderman DaJuan Gay, Ward 6; Alderman Rob Savidge, Ward 7; Alderman Ross H. Arnett, III, Ward 8

From: Alderwoman Rhonda Pindell Charles, Ward 3

Sponsors: Mayor Gavin Buckley; Alderwoman Rhonda Pindell Charles; Alderwoman Sheila M. Finlayson; Alderwoman Elly Tierney; Alderwoman Karma O'Neill

Date: June 27, 2022

Subject: O-6-22, Medical Cannabis Dispensary, Amendment 5; and Amendments 1-4

The historical significance and diversity of our City, coupled with its ability to attract tourists and generate revenue, cannot be overstated: Ward 1, with its old world and new world downtown and colonial history and inviting charm, dating back 3 centuries, continually hosts at least one million visitors each year, including at our U.S. Naval Academy. Ward 2, the "keeper" of our U.S. Naval Academy Stadium can also certainly boast of its "Old Fourth Ward" African-American history when the likes of Pearl Bailey and many many other national stars came to this thriving business, entertainment, and educational district which included the Stanton (High) School. Ward 4's Wiley H. Bates High School, now Legacy Center, which, proudly and without hesitation, "accepted the baton" of secondary education from the Stanton School from 1933-1966—another African-American treasure. Ward 5 can boast of its community and educational hub, the Pip Moyer Recreation Center, named for our iconic Mayor Roger "Pip" Moyer. Wards 6 and 8, in our Eastport communities, have a long and storied maritime history dating back well over a century. And Ward 7 is the home of the national history making Carr's and Sparrow's Beaches, and Elktonia, directly connecting with Ward 3—this proud Parole community having its legacy steeped within its native son, the legendary musical giant and genius Charles "Hoppy" Adams, also the vital role that Parole played in the epilogue of the Civil War, and national civil rights activist Principal Walter S. Mills. And Hoppy Adams' radio programming attracted large crowds in the tens of thousands to see in person, in Ward 7, the legendary and popular artists and entertainers during the 1950s to the 1970's, such as Chuck Berry, James Brown, Little Richard, Jackie Wilson, Sam Cooke, The Supremes, The Temptations, Aretha Franklin, Otis Redding, Jerry Butler, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, Jimmy Hendricks, Buddy Holly, and many more! And Hoppy regularly hosted and entertained these big-named stars right in his home in Parole. His official "place and space" in the National Museum of American History in D.C. has been seen by millions of international visitors. **All 8 of our Wards have at least two commonalities even beyond history—namely, a quality of life that emphasizes 1) education, and 2) family friendly.** Arguably, the settlement of cannabis dispensaries, i.e., O-6-22, generally do not comport with this overall positive quality of life and overwhelming historical significance.

Note: While I generally do not support cannabis dispensaries within our City, nevertheless, on June 10, was the last time that I had proposed to the lead sponsor of O-6-22 that I would offer this compromise, Amendment 5, and therefore, my word is my bond when it comes to O-6-22.

Specifically: There are many lifetime supporters of a positive quality of life in Ward 3/the Greater Parole area. And these supporters have been very strongly connected to Ward 3/greater Parole area by residency, family, friends, education, employment, history, spiritual influences, etc. The "positive quality of life" (i.e., family, health, personal development, education, environment, security, political, civic and social engagement, workforce, financial literacy,

housing, transportation, entertainment, recreation, spirituality, etc.) resulting in the moniker “Ward 3: Annapolis in Miniature” ^{1 (footnote)}

—these amenities that have thrived, and that these communities have enjoyed and become accustomed to for over 150 years (1865, post-Civil War)—is evidenced by many factors, especially for African-Americans; and therefore, their collective voices should **always** be heard and respected. Their roots run extremely deep; and their community and its character have a very long and proud history that will be continually promoted. For example, their goals: Ward 3/Parole being designated and promoted as an official tourist destination (and such destinations are family-friendly for all ages) will generate additional revenue and attention for our City and region. Among many others: From the pivotal part that Parole played in the epilogue of the Civil War; to Parole Elementary School Principal Walter S. Mills being represented in federal court by Thurgood Marshall—one of the successful cases that was the catalyst for the U.S. Supreme Court’s landmark decision in Brown v. Board of Education (1954); to the homegrown Parole legend Hoppy Adams and the international stars that he consistently brought to Carr’s Beach/Annapolis (the Beach continuing to be revived), Hoppy's official “place and space” in the Smithsonian in D.C., and him being related to former President John Quincy Adams (as published by historian Janice Hayes-Williams); and much more. Moreover, historically, Ward 3 believes that their “community character” should be strongly considered and accepted, as solidified in Annapolis’ 2009 Comprehensive Plan (i.e., “community character” and “land use”); and therefore, they promote the social movement of environmental justice for their community—“land use” being a component of “environmental justice” since 1991. Furthermore, the community of Parole especially, is a very unique and unprecedented community—widely recognized and respected throughout this country, well-documented, with a continuing legacy today that has progressed for over a century and a half, in spite of racial and cultural inequities and injustices. For example, see a synopsis of their proud Parole and Ward 3 history on the City's website (www.annapolis.gov): <https://www.annapolis.gov/DocumentCenter/View/4527>, .

Regarding Amendments 1-4:

O-6-22, Medical Cannabis Dispensary, Amendment 1 (1/2 mile radius) - **Oppose/No:** Instead, Amendment 5 provides for a 1.5 mile radius

O-6-22, Medical Cannabis Dispensary, Amendment 2 (1 mile radius) - **Oppose/No:** Instead, Amendment 5 provides for a 1.5 mile radius

O-6-22, Medical Cannabis Dispensary, Amendment 3 - **Oppose/No:** A reduction from 1,000 feet to 750 feet from a school does not promote 1) education

O-6-22, Medical Cannabis Dispensary, Amendment 4 - **Oppose/No:** This amendment does not promote 1) education because it excludes "Private" schools

Regarding Amendment 5:

O-6-22, Medical Cannabis Dispensary, Amendment 5 - **Support/Yes:** Provides for a 1.5 mile radius

Thank you.

Prepared by Rhonda Pindell Charles, Alderwoman, Ward 3

1 (footnote)

The 21 reasons for the moniker, “Ward 3: Annapolis in Miniature”:

1 - 1 health center (that can birth babies); **2** - at least 10 neighborhoods of affordable housing; **3** - 2 schools; **4** - 2 childcare facilities; **5** - 1 walking trail; **6** - 1 professional theater; **7** - at least 6 murals; **8** - 1 public park with a variety of amenities; **9** - at least 8 community associations; **10** - 2 different forms of transportation—public and private; **11** - approximately 725 businesses (more than any other Ward); **12** - 6 business districts; **13** - 2 creeks (Spa Creek and Church Creek); **14** - 2 grocery stores; **15** - 2 department stores; **16** - 2 postal services; **17** - 5 financial institutions; **18** - 1 government facility (forthcoming, DPW campus); **19** - 9 houses of worship (with a very wide variety of faiths—from Methodist to Pentecostal to Seventh Day Adventist to Muslim and others in between); **20** - 1 funeral home (where we can prepare to bury you); and **21** - 2 cemeteries (and where we can actually bury you; including a pet cemetery).