

Bolen, Rebecca A.

From: SM Ramos <smrcmd@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 12, 2021 5:35 PM
To: City of Albuquerque Planning Department
Subject: Small Area Old Town HPO-5

Dear members of the Environmental Planning Commission,

I own and reside the home at 2110 Charlevoix Street in Historic Old Town. I am invested in not only the survival but the flourishing of a decades-old Pueblo Viejo that has grown from a few mud building to a world-wide historical tourist attraction. Every day, in my narrow street, perhaps the shortest in Albuquerque, I see, hear, and welcome tourists from all over the Unites State and the world (Japan, Spain, Canada, and more).

As you know, Old Town occupies an area of about 0.8 square miles (2.1 km²) or 10 blocks. Though tiny, this area is important for its long history, historic sites, ancient pattern of church, plaza, and streets, and historic buildings. This village, recognized for its collection of distinctive historic resources enjoyed by residents, business owners, and visitors, links the city's heritage to its up-and-coming present, and its vibrant future. Therefore, preserving this historic resource is essential to Albuquerque's well-being, identity, and character.

I believe that allowing cannabis retail, cultivation and product manufacturing in this tiny historic place should be banned. Access to cannabis is not the reason New Mexicans, national and international business people, and tourist come to Old Town and, in many cases, bring their families. I believe the presence of cannabis businesses in Old Town will degrade its image as well as the quality of life of those of us who live and/or work here. And it will adversely affect its economic potential as an Albuquerque and New Mexico historical attraction. (An image that may already be threatened by the free-for-all, recent proliferation of bars, wine "tasting rooms" and taprooms.)

That is why I support amendments to prohibit cannabis uses (retail, cultivation, and cannabis-derived products manufacturing) within the Old Town HPO-5 zone. Among other reasons, that is consistent with the goals and policies in the ABC Comprehensive Plan, specifically Policy 4.1.4, which encourages protecting traditional communities to ensure long-term health and vitality.

The proposed amendments to prohibit cannabis uses in the Old Town HPO-5 are consistent with adopted policies that would protect the identity and existing character (and healthy survival) of our area. I strongly urge you to support and enact them.

Gracias for your attention.

Sincerely,
Sylvia M. Ramos, M.D

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“Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”

- Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), written by Alice Paul in 1923 and ratified by Virginia, the 38th state needed for it to become the 28th amendment to the US Constitution, in 2020.