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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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11/21/2025

To: Jessica García
Chair
NYS Cannabis Control Board

Felicia A. B. Reid
Executive Deputy Director
Interim Executive Director
NYS Office of Cannabis Management

Dear Chair Garcia, and Deputy/Acting Executive Director Reid,

Community Board 2 Manhattan adopted the following resolution on 20 November 2025:

RESOLUTION TO DENY THE APPLICATION FOR ELISE PELKA LLC / OCMCAURD-2022-0001802 / OCMCAURDP-2024-000123 d/b/a FLYNNSTONED CANNABIS COMPANY, 388 WEST STREET 10014

**Oct/Nov 2024: Michael Flynn for Justice Involved NY Inc. (OCMCAURD-2022-000463)
d/b/a Flynnstoned Cannabis Company**

- 1.
2. **WHEREAS**, on October 7, 2024, CB2 was served a Notification to Municipality OCM-06009 (NTM) form for a retail dispensary premises at 388 West Street, 10014, for the corporate entity, Justice Involved NY Inc. doing business as (d/b/a) Flynnstoned Cannabis Company, showing the owner as Michael Flynn as the individual applying for licensure with the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM), Mike Flynn as the signatory, the email contact and phone contact, and Axel Bernaby as Flynnstoned Cannabis Company's retained legal representative; and
3. **WHEREAS**, on October 9, 2024, CB2 sent Mike Flynn an invitation, instructions for the 10/21/24 CLC meeting; and
4. **WHEREAS**, on October 15, 2024, CB2 received a formal "Withdrawal Request for: Justice Involved NY Inc." for the above-referenced 10/7/2025 NTM, and corresponding email address, stating, "Justice involved NY Inc. (175 Peal St. Fl #1, Brooklyn NY 11201) formally

requests the withdrawal of the Notification form submitted for an Adult Use Cannabis Dispensary to be located at 388 West St., NY 10014 to Community Board 2 Manhattan sent by Certified Mail on October 4th, 2024. Thank you, Mike Flynn"; and

5. **WHEREAS**, on March 21, 2025, CB2 received an email from Alexis Bronson requesting the above referenced 10/7/2025 NTM submitted for the corporate entity Justice Involved NY Inc.; unbeknownst to CB2 at that time, Mr. Bronson was the CAURD applicant and sole owner of the corporate entity Justice Involved Inc.; and
6. **WHEREAS**, CB2 spoke with Mr. Bronson in order to clarify his right to the NTM document, and he stated he had no association with Flynnstoned Cannabis Company, had never spoken with Mr. Flynn, nor submitted an NTM for his business to CB2; upon confirming that fact, CB2 sent him a copy of the NTM; and
7. **WHEREAS**, in an effort to clarify Mr. Bronson's 3/21/25 statements, CB2 contacted Mr. Bronson and he asked that the following statement be included in this resolution:

Dear CB2,

I am writing to provide formal confirmation that I have submitted a complaint to the New York Office of Cannabis Management's Trade Practices Bureau regarding the unauthorized Notice to Municipality (NTM) filed under my company's name by Michael Flynn (d/b/a Flynnstoned Cannabis Company). As previously discussed, I was contacted by a member of the media about an NTM supposedly submitted by my company. This was the first time I became aware of its existence. After speaking with your office and reviewing the filing, I can confirm the following: I did not authorize, draft, sign, consent to, or participate in this NTM submission. Justice Involved NY Inc. has no business relationship, agreement, or communication with any of the individuals or entities listed on the filing. I had no prior knowledge of this NTM until notified by third parties.

The submission misrepresented my company's involvement and constituted an unauthorized and improper use of my corporate identity, including a signature block naming "Mike Flynn" as submitter dated 10/04/2024. I have filed a formal complaint with the OCM Trade Practices Bureau, which has acknowledged receipt and confirmed that the matter is under review.

Please let me know if CB2 requires any additional documentation or statements from me.

Best regards,

Alexis Bronson - President

JUSTICE INVOLVED NY INC."; and

Oct/Nov 2025 Michael Flynn for Elise Pelka LLC/OCMCAURD-2022-0001802 d/b/a Flynnstoned Cannabis Company At 388 West Street 10014
[ELISE PELKA LLC. QUESTIONNAIRE \[2024\]](#)¹

8. **WHEREAS**, on October 17, 2024, CB2 received a Notification to Municipality (NTM) form OCM-06009 for an Adult-Use retail dispensary premises for Elise Pelka LLC d/b/a as Flynnstoned Cannabis Company showing Michael Flynn as the individual applying for licensure with the Office of Cannabis Management, Mike Flynn as the signatory, the email contact and phone contact, and Axel Bernaby as Flynnstoned Cannabis Company's retained legal representative; and

¹ https://cbmanhattan.cityofnewyork.us/cb2/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2024/11/PUBLICQUESTIONNAIRE_ElisePelka.LLcDbFLYNNSTONED_388WestSt10014.pdf

9. **WHEREAS**, CB2, having been led to believe that Mr. Flynn was the applicant and individual having control over Elise Pelka LLC., based on the information provided in the 10/17/24 NTM, included his application to the agenda for the 11/18/2025 CB2 Cannabis Licensing Committee (CLC) meeting and public hearing, and sent an invitation and applicant questionnaire to Mr. Flynn; and
10. **WHEREAS**, Mr. Flynn submitted the CLC questionnaire for Elise Pelka LLC stating therein that he and his "partner" "Jake" would attend the meeting on behalf of the business, and the application for which they were applying as OCMCAURD-2022-000180, which, upon later review, was found to be the license number for Mr. Flynn's FlynnStoned Cannabis Company at 219 Walton St, Syracuse, NY 13202, not Elise Pelka LLC; and
11. **WHEREAS**, Mr. Flynn submitted a NY DOS Certificate of Incorporation for Flynnstoned Corporation, filing receipt, and OCM Certificate of Licensure also in the name of Flynnstoned Corporation/OCM-CAURD-23-000010, not the business entity submitted to CB2, Elise Pelka LLC (OCMCAURD-2022-0001802); and
12. **WHEREAS**, Mr. Flynn also submitted ownership as "Mike Flynn 50% Elise Pelka 50%", and corresponding cap table showing the same 50/50 ownership split; that financing would be provided by "Flynnstoned Corp", and that business under review was engaged in a Goods and Services, Branding or Management Services Agreement; and

SCHOOL PROXIMITY: LEGAL RESTRICTIONS & OCM GUIDANCE

13. **WHEREAS**, since 2/1/2023 the OCM, utilized distance measurement methods that were in violation of restricted proximity to schools, and houses of worship, by instituting a provision that dispensaries could be sited within 500 feet by making schools with front door street names, on a different block or road, than that of the proposed dispensary premises, exempt from legal restrictions, and instituting door-to-door measurements instead of door to property line as specified in the law:

OCM GUIDANCE-FOR-ADULT-USE-RETAIL-DISPENSARIES

Proximity to School Grounds. A dispensary cannot be on the same road and within 500 feet of a building and its grounds occupied exclusively as school grounds, as defined in Section 409(2) of the New York State Education Law. This measurement will be taken in a straight line from the center of the nearest entrance of the nearest building occupied as a school, on the school grounds, to the center of the nearest entrance (1) of the premises that the licensee wishes to locate the dispensary at. Only entrances that are regularly used to give ingress to patrons of the establishment will be used to determine distance. Emergency or fire exits, maintenance access, or doors to non-public areas of the premises will not be considered in this measurement.

(1) For the purpose of measurements between two premises, "entrance" means a door of a school, of a place of worship, or of the premises sought to be licensed, regularly used to give ingress to students of the school, to the general public attending the place of worship, and to patrons or guests of the premises proposed to be licensed, except that where a school or place of worship is set back from a public thoroughfare, the walkway or stairs leading to any such door shall be deemed an entrance; and the measurement shall be taken to the center of the walkway or stairs at the point where it meets the building line or public thoroughfare. "Entrance" does not mean a door which has no exterior hardware, or which is used solely as an emergency or fire exit, or for maintenance purposes, or which leads directly to a part of a building not regularly used by the general public or patrons.

**NYS LAW
DISPENSARY TO SCHOOL PROXIMITY RESTRICTIONS**

Cannabis Law § 72 (6): *No cannabis retail licensee shall locate a storefront within five hundred feet of a school grounds as such term is defined in the Education Law or within two hundred feet of a house of worship."*

Education Law § 409 (2) defines as school grounds as: *"...any building, structure and surrounding outdoor grounds, including entrances or exits contained within a public or private pre-school, nursery school, elementary or secondary school's legally defined property boundaries as registered in a county clerk's office."*

14. **WHEREAS**, CB2, being aware of the OCM's violation of the law, and the fact that the OCM and Cannabis Control Board (CCB) was in the practice of approving license applications within 500 feet of schools regardless of the law or municipal opinion, asks applicants in its questionnaire to list all, "Schools/School Grounds within 500 ft. radius of your proposed premises, whether or not they are in an exclusive-use building, or on the same block/road of your proposed premises.", a question to which Mr. Flynn responded, "no schools within 500ft", yet the proposed premises is, in fact, within 500 feet of the [Village Community School](#) at 272 W 10th St. 10014; and;
15. **WHEREAS**, Mr. Flynn acknowledged via the CLC questionnaire that he had submitted NTMs to other NYC Community Boards, but declined to share what Community Boards or the addresses of the proposed premises for which he had applied; and
16. **WHEREAS**, nearly all documents submitted by Mr. Flynn via the questionnaire were for Flynnstoned Corporation, Flynnstoned Cannabis Company, with each filename ending with "Mike Flynn"; and

NOVEMBER 18, 2024 CB2 CANNABIS LICENSING MEETING

17. **WHEREAS**, Mike Flynn attended the 11/18/2024 CB2 CLC meeting to present the application for Elise Pelka LLC d/b/a as Flynnstoned Cannabis Company; he was accompanied by Imran Sajid, who, according to Community Board 6 Manhattan's November 2024 Full Board resolution², is the individual who appeared before its Business Affairs & Licensing as a Principal owner of Celes Walters d/b/a Flynnstoned Cannabis Company at 820 2nd Avenue just 4-week prior; and
18. **WHEREAS**, Mr. Flynn introduced his business "Flynnstoned" as having "over 30 locations across the state - all the way from Buffalo to Long Island. And there's About four of them in Syracuse to open within the next month Rochester, three within the next two months. Same with Buffalo, Oswego, Binghamton, and ... a handful in Manhattan as well." Including in Brooklyn, Auburn, New York.
19. **WHEREAS**, when asked Mr. Flynn made reference to Elise Pelka, the licensee, as "a silent

² 2024-11-13 - BALC - Reso of Obj for Nw lic to oper cnbns rtl dspnsry for Celes Walters w Mike Flynn at 820 2nd Ave-1.pdf

partner" who "doesn't know anything about the business" and is "just another member" of a "private program" he put together; and

20. **WHEREAS**, when asked Ms. Pelka's "silent partner" status in relation to the 50/50 ownership he submitted, and the minimum 51% legal True Party of Interest (TPI) ownership and control and majority ownership requirements for CAURD licenses, Mr. Flynn stated that "he misspoke", and that "it'll be roughly" 50/50, that the brand licensing agreement between he and Ms. Pelka was not yet finalized, and "when this finally gets approved we'll talk about percentages." and
21. **WHEREAS**, Mr. Flynn confirmed that his contractors were working on the proposed premises prior to the meeting, and having witnessed the proposed premises under construction prior to the meeting, CB2 checked with the Department of Buildings but found no permits for the site: and
22. **WHEREAS**, when asked about the construction work underway at the proposed premises, Mr. Flynn then said that it was preliminary work and invited the committee to refer to the landlord for further information; and
23. **WHEREAS**, when asked about multiple incidents of publicly documented unlicensed on-site consumption at his Syracuse dispensary, Mr. Flynn stated that "It must have been a private party"; and
24. **WHEREAS**, when asked about public videos of himself smoking within the licensed premises, Mr. Flynn stated, "You know that's a smoke lounge up there, right? That's why I smoke up there. Why would I not?", to which the committee stated "Because, it's not legal", to which Mr. Flynn responded, "No, no, no, no, no - it's legal for me to consume whatever I want to do there... I can do whatever I want in the consumption lounge up there";and

<https://flynnstoned.com/dispensaries/new-york/syracuse-armory-square/#lounge-delivery>

FLYNNSTONED
CANNABIS COMPANY

Sunday 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
10:00 AM – 10:00 PM
10:00 AM – 08:00 PM

MY ACCOUNT SYRACUSE

Shop Shop by Category About Us Dispensaries

Address:
FlynnStoned Dispensary in Armory Square Syracuse – Recreational Cannabis
219 Walton St.
Syracuse, NY 13202
[Get Directions](#)

Phone:
+1 (315) 299-9334
[Call Now](#)

The Lounge & Delivery Services

FlynnStoned Armory Square offers more than just premium cannabis—we've created services designed to meet you where you are. **The Lounge** provides a licensed, comfortable space where adults 21+ can enjoy products on-site, connect with the community, and attend special events. Can't make it in? We offer licensed cannabis delivery throughout the Syracuse area, bringing your favorite products directly to your door with speed and discretion.

25. **WHEREAS**, when asked about the five schools and multiple child-sensitive buildings and areas in the immediate vicinity of the proposed premises, instead of answering, Mr. Flynn stated, "I think you're just really hateful about this whole thing" and "Yes, I'm aware of all the schools, okay? Let's just move on"; and
26. **WHEREAS**, Mr. Flynn failed to submit a DOB Certificate of Occupancy or Letter of No Objection for the proposed premises, but submitted instead a letter from the landlord; and
27. **WHEREAS**, when made aware of the considerable opposition received by CB2 and district electeds, his history of failing to perform community engagement in CB2, local opposition to Flynnstoned dispensaries by other Community Boards and their residents, and the concerns voiced by the CB2 residents of nearby and congruent buildings during public comment, about the site's proximity to schools, Hudson River Park, the bus stop directly in front of the proposed premises predominantly used by school children, and West Village Houses, Mr. Flynn described his prospective neighbors as "uneducated"; and
28. **WHEREAS**, following public comment, during business session, the CLC deliberated and determined the application unsuitable for approval and voted to recommend denial, via [Resolution to Deny the Application for Elise Pelka LLC d/b/a Flynnstoned](#) which was adopted by the Full Board of CB2 and submitted to the OCM and CCB; and

NOVEMBER 10, 2025 CB2 CANNABIS LICENSING MEETING

Oct/Nov 2025 - Elise Pelka for Elise Pelka LLC/OCMCAURD-2022-0001802 d/b/a Flynnstoned Cannabis Company At 388 West Street 10014

1. **WHEREAS**, on September 22, 2025, CB2 was served a Notification to Municipality OCM-06009 (NTM) form for a retail dispensary premises at 388 West Street, 10014, for the corporate entity, Elise Pelka LLC/OCMCAURD-2022-0001802 (d/b/a) Flynnstoned Cannabis Company, showing Elise Pelka as the individual applying for licensure with the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM), Elise Pelka as the signatory, the email contact and phone contact, and Michael Levine as the retained legal representative; and
2. **WHEREAS**, CB2, as is its regular process, submitted and was approved for an extension to submit comment to the OCM; and
3. **WHEREAS**, this was third submission of 388 West St. 10014 for Flynnstoned Cannabis Company and the first from Ms. Pelka; previous NTM forms were submitted by Michael Flynn for applications belonging to Justice Involved Inc. and later Elise Pelka LLC were withdrawn or deemed void by the OCM; and
4. **WHEREAS**, on October 24, 2025, CB2 sent Ms. Pelka an invitation, instructions for the 11/10/25 CLC meeting; and
5. **WHEREAS**, at the meeting, Ms. Pelka identified herself as the sole owner of the proposed dispensary and sole license applicant, and was accompanied by her "friend", Jonathan Gutierrez, who said he owns and operates a dispensary called [The Cannabis Reserve](#) in New Rochelle, which opened September 10, 2025; and
6. **WHEREAS**, Ms. Pelka described the business model as a "brand-licensing agreement" with Michael Flynn, with Mr. Flynn being an advisor providing capital and branding, and herself making operational decisions while retaining 100% ownership; and
7. **WHEREAS**, Ms. Pelka stated and confirmed the Mr. Flynn was providing all funding for the dispensary including the buildout, inventory and start-up money; and

8. **WHEREAS**, clause 63 of the lease submitted and signed by Ms. Pelka, Michael Flynn, and his spouse, Angela Flynn, making Ms. Pelka the tenant and the Flynn's Guarantors for 388 West St. 10014 reads, "Guaranty. In order to induce Landlord to enter into this Lease with Tenant, Tenant hereby agrees to cause Michael Flynn and Angela Flynn (jointly and severally, "Guarantor") to execute and deliver the Guaranty annexed hereto as Exhibit B. **Tenant hereby represents and warrants that the Guarantor [Michael and Angela Flynn] owns at least fifty percent (50%) of the stock or other ownership interest of Tenant.**"; and
9. **WHEREAS**, when made aware of the differences in the first lease submitted by Mr. Flynn for her business in 2024, and the lease she submitted in 2025, she stated "I will provide the revised lease that removes any restrictive clauses."; and
10. **WHEREAS**, when questioned about signage, based on the non-compliant neon flower images which are the brand logo of all Flynnstoned stores, Ms. Pelka said, "We will not display neon flower signs or other marketing that targets youth. The branding will be subdued and compliant with OCM advertising rules."; and
11. **WHEREAS**, the Committee raised additional operational questions about Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) compliance, staffing levels (the roles and numbers for which she seemed unclear), 2AM closing time, and the potential for a consumption lounge based on documented on-site consumption at Flynnstoned Greenpoint and Flynnstoned Syracuse (Armory Square); and
12. **WHEREAS**, when asked if she had participated in any of the trainings or incubators available to CAURD licensees and applicants that would best prepare her to open and run her business , Ms. Pelka replied she had not; and
13. **WHEREAS**, during review of Ms. Pelka's submitted materials she appeared unfamiliar with much of what was shared, including the terms of her lease and brand licensing agreements, anything about the area in which she hopes to operate, including any of the schools in the vicinity; and
14. **WHEREAS**, the lease submitted for this meeting differs from the lease reviewed in the prior year and contains an exit-clause that could effectively bind the applicant to the brand-licensor, raising concerns about independent control required for a social-equity license; and
15. **WHEREAS**, when questioned about the True Party of Interest (TPI) compliance of the documents submitted, Ms. Pelka appeared unfamiliar with the terms of her lease or Brand Licensing agreement; and
16. **WHEREAS**, during public session, the good-governance group, [City Club of New York](#) President, Layla Law-Gisiko, gave the following testimony:

"[this] application raises... three good government concerns that, in our view, warrant a denial or, at minimum, a hold pending verification. The first is that the proposed dispensary would be located in close proximity to Village Community School, an elementary school serving children from K to 8th grade...the proposed dispensary would be within 500 feet of the school in non-compliance with state law as initially passed. The second concern is that according to the state's own licensing and verification records, the same applicant or its True Parties of Interest, namely Michael Flynn, appears connected to at least 14 Adult Use Retail Licenses in New York State. If accurate, that exceeds the legal limit, which caps a person's financial or controlling interest at three retail dispensary licenses. That is not a technicality as it goes to the heart of a fair competitive market and public trust in the licensing process. Third, Michael Flynn, a True Party of Interest of the applicant, already operates a store at 206 8th Avenue..., that address is approximately 450 feet from PS11, a public school [in CB4]. This raises the obvious question of

proximity compliance. The burden should not fall on a community board to resolve these discrepancies. It should be on the applicant and the state to demonstrate unequivocal compliance. So the City Club of New York's request is straightforward: We require a written confirmation from the Office of Cannabis Management that first of all this site is more than 500 feet from school grounds under the governing standard. two, that the applicant's ownership and true party of interest structure complies with the three license limits. And, short of these steps, we urge community board 2 to deny the application. Licensing must be done carefully so legal cannabis can coexist without harming a young population and also without eroding confidence in how our rules are enforced. And, I would add, that I am personally a little bit disappointed that the applicant herself has taken a passive role in this hearing. This is the opportunity to be heard and unfortunately I personally cannot say that I have heard the applicant."; and

17. **WHEREAS**, CB2 received further written and in-person opposition from local residents, VCS parents, former VSC faculty, and families living in West Village Houses voicing concerns about the business name "Flynnstoned" and large neon cannabis flower signage being be attractive to minors, exposure to children to proposed dispensary's proximity to schools and the bus stop, the building being in a historic district with renovations not respecting the landmarked façade and historic streetscape, and manner in which business will be conducted, with one neighbor stating "the licence should be denied...I see no clear community benefit beyond profit."; and

SCHOOL PROXIMITY

18. **WHEREAS**, the OCM's previous proximity guidance that allowed dispensaries within 500 feet of a school had been corrected in July, but a lawsuit by impacted licensees, including Elise Pelka LLC resulted in an injunction preventing the NYS State from enforcing legal proximity restriction until February 15, 2026;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 2 (CB2), again, strongly recommends **denial** of the Adult-Use Retail Dispensary License application for Elise Pelka LLC / OCMCAURD-2022-0001802 d/b/a as Flynnstoned Cannabis Company at 388 West Street 10014 due to concerns about the manner in which the business will operate, the true ownership and control of the business, and the close proximity to multiple schools, and the proposed premises being within the restricted proximity of the Village Community School, and that this recommendation be deemed part of the record upon which the Office of Cannabis Management (Office) makes its recommendation to the Cannabis Control Board (Board) to grant or deny the application per §76 section 4 of NYS Cannabis Law.

Passed: 34 Board Members in favor, 3 abstentions (V. DeLaRosa, R. Sanz., E. Smith) Adopted 11/20/25

Respectfully submitted,



Valerie De La Rosa, Chair
Community Board 2, Manhattan
Community Board 2, Manhattan



Mar Fitzgerald, Chair
Cannabis Licensing Committee (CLC)

VDL/fa

cc:

Hon. Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York
Hon. Daniel Goldman, Congressman
Hon. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, NYS Senator
Hon. Brian Kavanaugh, NYS Senator
Hon. Liz Krueger, NYS Senator
Hon. Crystal Peoples-Stokes, NYS Senator
Hon. Grace Lee, Assembly Member
Hon. Deborah Glick, Assembly Member
Hon. Harvey Epstein, Assembly Member
Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York
Hon. Jumaane Williams, NYC Public Advocate
Hon. Brad Lander, NYC Comptroller
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Erik Bottcher, Council Member
Harold Miller, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of the New York State Attorney General
Michael Meade, Senior Advisor for Government and External Affairs · Manhattan District Attorney's Office
James Rogers, Director Trade Practices Bureau/Deputy General Counsel, NYS OCM
Pascale Bernard, Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, NYS OCM
Philip Rumsey, Manager of Intergovernmental Outreach, NYS OCM

Valerie De La Rosa, Chair
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Donna Raftery, Second Vice Chair



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12/3/2025

To: Jessica García
Chair
NYS Cannabis Control Board

Felicia A. B. Reid
Executive Deputy Director
Interim Executive Director
NYS Office of Cannabis Management

Dear Chair Garcia, and Deputy/Acting Executive Director Reid,

Community Board 2 Manhattan adopted the following resolution on 20 November 2025:

RESOLUTION TO AMEND PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR CANNABIS SHOWCASE EVENTS

1. **WHEREAS**, The New York State Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) submitted to [NYS Register Vol. XLVII Issue 38 \(No. OCM-38-25-00008-P\)](#), proposed regulations [Proposed Rule Making Cannabis Showcase Events](#) that would allow approximately 1,700 cannabis businesses to sell and showcase cannabis and cannabis products away from their licensed premises; and
2. **WHEREAS**, the proposed regulations set where and how these Cannabis Showcase Events can operate, how long they can run, and require partnerships with growers and processors so the market features certain supply-chain participants; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the proposed regulations allow an individual retail license to apply for, and simultaneously run up to two Cannabis Showcase Events for 14 days, for a total of 45 days per year; and

4. **WHEREAS**, Cannabis Showcase Events can occur in a number of venues:

Outdoor / Open-Air Spaces

- Farms / agricultural properties
- Public markets and farmers' markets
- Parks or park-adjacent vendor areas
- Beaches
- Open lots or fairgrounds
- Parking lots (private or municipally authorized)
- Outdoor plazas / pedestrianized streets (if permitted by municipality)

Indoor Spaces

- Indoor public markets
- Event halls or community venues
- Convention / expo spaces
- Market-style or pop-up retail spaces
- Empty/temporary commercial storefronts
- **Brick-and-mortar buildings being used as short-term pop-ups**

5. **WHEREAS**, Cannabis Showcase Events occurring in brick-and-mortar buildings constitute de facto retail dispensary premises, and any other indoor or outdoor venues may also be classified as such; and

6. **WHEREAS**, multiple dispensary brands such as [Travel Agency](#) (4), [The Flowery](#) (11), [Flynnstoned](#) (13), [CannaPlanet](#) (5), [Gotham](#) (4), [Be.](#) (4), [Curaleaf](#) (9)... have multiple (4-13+) other licenses and stores operating under their respective marks, with more being approved by the OCM every day; which would allow such a brand to operate multiple Cannabis Showcase Events at once, or indefinitely under different license numbers in congruent locations; and

7. **WHEREAS**, as written, the proposed regulations could create an oligopoly by allowing a small number of well-resourced brands to dominate the market and limited consumer choice; and

8. **WHEREAS**, such a market structure could squeeze out independent and less resourced operators; and

9. **WHEREAS**, in New York City, Community Boards are the primary neighborhood level planning and oversight bodies for street, market, and event uses, as well as, hospitality establishments and cannabis retail operations; and

10. **WHEREAS**, the proposed regulations also require "authorization from the municipality where the event is proposed"¹ before the state issues a permit, but fails to acknowledge NYS Cannabis Law §76(2-b)(4) and specify that "in the city of New York, the community board... with jurisdiction over the area in which the premises is located shall be considered the appropriate public body to which notification shall be given.", and that Community Boards have the right to "express an opinion for or against the granting of such registration, license or permit application"²; and

¹ <https://cannabis.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2025/09/cannabis-showcase-events-for-website-09-24-2025.pdf>

² <https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2021/S854A>

11. **WHEREAS**, the proper siting, scale, and public safety conditions associated with cannabis showcase events are best evaluated through local input; and
12. **WHEREAS**, the inclusion of Community Board review ensures transparency, accountability, and neighborhood collaboration;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all cannabis showcase event applicants seeking municipal authorization within the five boroughs must notify and submit materials to the appropriate Community Board prior to municipal sign-off; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Community Board shall have the ability to issue an advisory recommendation including approval, approval with conditions, or denial, which must be included in the applicant's municipal authorization record; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that each brand name shall be treated as a single license and shall be subject to the same limits and restrictions that apply to any other Cannabis Showcase Event permit, unless the license holder operates the event under a temporary and entirely separate identifier, name, brand, or mark that is wholly unique and not readily identifiable as part of the primary brand.

Adopted 11/20/25 Passed: 34 Board Members in favor, 3 abstentions (V. DeLaRosa, R. Sanz., E. Smith)

Respectfully submitted,



Valerie De La Rosa, Chair
Community Board 2, Manhattan



Mar Fitzgerald, Chair
Cannabis Licensing Committee (CLC)
Community Board 2, Manhattan

VDL/fa
cc:

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