



## Community Education Council 24

Public School 71

62-85 Forest Avenue, Room 110

Ridgewood, New York 11385

Email: [CEC24@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:CEC24@schools.nyc.gov)

[www.CEC24.org](http://www.CEC24.org)

### Resolution #183 –

Proposed Cannabis Dispensary at 71-10 Grand Avenue, Maspeth, New York across from Public School 58

Sponsor: Matthew Crescio

Co-Sponsor: Brian Augustine, Kate Barvels, Aliya Bonar, Elizabeth Fortunato, Gina Liberta and Felicity McHugh

**Whereas**, Community Education Council District 24 (CEC24), composed of ten duly elected parent representatives, serves as the voice of families across the largest school district in New York City, representing over 40,000 students;

**Whereas**, CEC24 is charged with advocating for the safety, well-being, and academic success of all students within District 24;

**Whereas**, a cannabis dispensary is being proposed at **71-10 Grand Avenue** in Maspeth, Queens, directly adjacent to P.S. 58 – *The School of Heroes*, a public K-5 elementary school serving hundreds of local families;

**Whereas**, the proposed location sits **approximately 446 feet** from a **school entrance actively used by Pre-K through 2nd grade students for over 12 years**, and the New York State cannabis regulations (9 NYCRR § 119) explicitly prohibit retail dispensaries from operating within **500 feet of any entrance** to a school building;

**Whereas**, the applicant and/or the Cannabis Control Board appear to be engaging in semantic manipulation by claiming the law refers only to a "main entrance," despite the regulation clearly stating "an entrance" without such qualification;

**Whereas**, independent, professional measurements using a Measure Master Roltape Corporation Measuring Wheel confirmed that the distance from the proposed dispensary entrance to the school entrance is **446 feet**, which is **54 feet short** of the legal minimum buffer zone;

**Whereas**, this violation of the law and the disregard for student safety has sparked broad-based opposition, including a formal letter to the New York State Cannabis Control Board co-signed by:

- U.S. Representative Grace Meng
- New York State Senator Michael Gianaris
- New York State Assembly Member Steven Raga
- New York City Council Member Robert Holden
- Queens Community Board 5



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- Juniper Park Civic Association
- COMET (Communities of Maspeth and Elmhurst Together) Civic Association

**Whereas**, the D24 Presidents' Council, which represents all PTA and PA Presidents from schools across the district and advocates for over **40,000 students**, also stands in strong opposition to the proposed location;

**Be it Resolved**, that **Community Education Council District 24** formally **opposes the proposed cannabis dispensary at 71-10 Grand Avenue** due to its proximity—within 446 feet—to a school entrance of P.S. 58, in violation of New York State cannabis siting laws;

**Be it Further Resolved**, that CEC24 calls on the **New York State Cannabis Control Board** and the **Office of Cannabis Management (OCM)** to **deny the application** for a dispensary license at this site, uphold the law as written, and prioritize student safety and community well-being over misapplied interpretations of regulatory language;

**Be it Further Resolved**, that this resolution be shared with:

- Governor Kathy Hochul
- Mayor Eric Adams
- New York State Cannabis Control Board
- Office of Cannabis Management (OCM)
- New York City Department of Education (DOE)
- All elected officials representing District 24

The CEC24 members voted and approved this resolution #183 at the July 22, 2025 meeting.