

**Written testimony re: Zoning Text Amendment 25-07, Retail Sales and Service - Cannabis Dispensary, submitted relative to the public hearing of the ZTA before the Montgomery County Council, scheduled for 1:30pm on Jun 17, 2025.**

This written testimony is in support of the ordinance proposed by Council Member Gabriel Albornaz to require a 100 foot separation between cannabis dispensaries and residences. It is titled Zoning Text Amendment 25-07, Retail Sales and Service - Cannabis Dispensary.

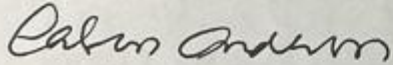
It is striking that the restrictions for alcohol and cannabis retailers prohibit these businesses from locations less than 500 feet from sensitive areas where people gather (churches, schools, parks, etc.), but not from locations where those people live. People gather for short times, but they live in their homes, and use their yards, day and night.

The security restrictions applying to these businesses indicate the seriousness of the potential threats that they and the areas surrounding them must consider. This is especially true for cannabis dispensaries as cash-only businesses with high street value products. Security requirements do not ensure compliance, either on the part of the businesses or their customers, or their predators.

There is a nuisance factor in addition to security concerns. Required lighting for these businesses puts 24/7 fixtures in place facing residential windows, and extended business hours mean commercial activity inches from areas where families gather and children play. Rules may prohibit the consumption or use of controlled substances on site, including parking lots, but we all know what happens in reality.

We have lived adjoining commercial properties for 30 years without incident, but these have been low-impact businesses (bank, chiropractor, barbershop, real estate office, dentist's office). A retailer of a controlled substance is in an entirely different category.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Anderson", written in a cursive style.

Catherine Anderson