

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3B
GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS



July 30, 2026

TO: Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Control Board

FROM: Brian Turmail, Chairman, ANC3B

RE: Protest of Medical Marijuana Retail License Transfer Application for Kahama West LLC to be located at 2208 Wisconsin Avenue NW

VIA: email [abca.legal@dc.gov and sarah.weniger@dc.gov]

Chairman Donovan and Members of the Board:

ANC3B resolved at its duly noticed, public meeting on July 9, 2026, to protest the license transfer application submitted by Kahama West LLC for a new cannabis retail operation to be located at 2208 Wisconsin Avenue NW, which is in the purview of this ANC. The ANC is aware that the grounds for filing a protest against a retail cannabis operation are exceptionally narrow, but we believe that the fitness of the new owners, the past history of the current owners of the license, and the possibility of straw ownership are valid concerns that should be considered by the Board. In our experience, all of these factors are signals of trouble to come.

The ANC would like to clarify that the neighborhood co-existed peacefully for several years with an unlicensed marijuana retailer. That operator ran a responsible business and was respectful of his neighbors. The business was shut down by ABCA and denied a license because it was too close to Guy Mason recreation center, which is located in a residential zone. At the time, the ANC for 3B-02 as well as others, including Friends of Guy Mason, wrote to ABCA in support of licensing the business to no avail. In other words, our protest is not based on an opposition to legal cannabis sales in the neighborhood.

Our interest is in having any such business run responsibly with concern for abutting and adjacent neighbors. 2208 Wisconsin Avenue is a ground floor storefront in a residential apartment building that backs onto a densely populated residential neighborhood. Non-

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3B04
CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
RICHARD POLLOPCK

3B05
S. GLOVER PARK
GUPH HOWIE

3B06
CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
ROB RODRIGUEZ

residential parking is minimal; the alley behind 2208 Wisconsin is heavily trafficked with commercial vehicles and there is no available parking. MPD has frequently been called to deal with illicit drug activity related to a property located one block away.

The past history of Damion West and Gregory Wimsatt, who are the owners of the license to be transferred, and the lack of any business history at all for Kahama West or any knowledge whatsoever about his partner Shairah Muwwakkil, who will take over the license, raise serious questions about the appropriateness of this license transfer. At the Fact Finding hearing on June 3, 2026, Chairman Donovan endeavored to explore the fitness to operate a business of Kahama West, the one applicant who was present, according to the transcript of the proceedings, but received no reassuring answers to his questions. The applicant's lawyer didn't even know the name of the applicant's absent co-owner. Just one week later, the Board decided the applicants were fit to run a medical marijuana dispensary and approved their application for a license transfer, pending protest, at this location.

Both Damion West and Gregory Wimsatt have backgrounds of marijuana arrests and confiscation of cannabis products and profits. While selling marijuana is no longer a crime, such a background may evidence a willingness to break the law. But more relevant to our concerns is the fact that the business they ran, Mr. Nice Guys, on 33rd Street in Georgetown, so disrupted the abutting neighbors that their then-unlicensed business was exposed and they were raided by MPD—twice*. To us, this shows not only disregard for neighbors, but poor business sense.

Now they are seeking to transfer two retail cannabis licenses they own to Damion West's brother, Kahama, so that they can obtain a marijuana cultivation license. One license, Mr. Nice Guys 2, is in safekeeping; the other, Mr. Nice Guys 3, is conditional, according to the transcript of the Fact Finding hearing. It is unclear which would be transferred to the location in Glover Park, but there are red flags all over this application.

The ANC questions whether there is an aspect of straw ownership in this transfer, which would allow the original owners of the license to operate the business through the apparently inexperienced Kahama West. At a minimum, the ANC is concerned that Kahama West will be learning on the job, likely from his brother and his brother's partner. As noted above, the ANC questions their fitness to run a cannabis business in a manner that respects both the surrounding neighborhood and the regulations governing the sale of marijuana.

The ANC has had experience with flagging potentially unfit owners to ABCA and the consequences of ABCA not investigating sufficiently to determine fitness. This ANC previously flagged concerns, which unfortunately went unheeded, about the transfer of ownership of a grandfathered adult entertainment liquor license to a group that included a man previously convicted of felony drug trafficking resulted in federal authorities closing the business and confiscating the liquor license as drug-sale proceeds—after years of significant disruption of the neighborhood's peace, order and quiet. As you might imagine, the neighborhood does not want to go through that again.

The process for licensing retail marijuana sales forces the ANC to trust that the Board will fully investigate and judge the fitness of applicants to operate retail marijuana businesses before giving them licenses to do so. This ANC would like to go on record stating that it is our contention that the past history of the owners involved in this license application is a clear signal of trouble to come. The ANC voted to protest this application by raising the issues of straw ownership and the fitness of the new owners. We respectfully urge ABCA to take a second look at the application from Kahama West LLC and reconsider granting the license transfer.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Brian Turmail
Chairman ANC3B
Commissioner ANC3B-02

* https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/police-raid-suspected-marijuana-shop-above-georgetown-book-store/2019/12/05/cc6d456-1770-11ea-9110-3b34ce1d92b1_story.html

* <https://georgetowner.com/articles/2020/02/03/police-raid-mr-nice-guys-again/>

