



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

July 2, 2019

Mr. Larry Mondragon
Representative
The Atrium Group, LLC

Via Email Only

Dear Mr. Mondragon,

This letter is in response to correspondence from you to the City on June 28 and July 1, 2019 wherein you assert that Anthroposophical Society in America, Los Angeles Branch, located at 110 Martin Alley is a “Library” within the meaning of the term as the word is used in Pasadena Municipal Code Section 17.050.066 (D).

As you are aware, the Code requires dispensaries to be located a certain distance away from sensitive uses. The Pasadena Code expanded the State’s sensitive uses, which include schools, day care centers and youth facilities to include libraries, religious institutions, and residential zoned properties.

The intent of the distance separation requirements for the purposes of the code is to ensure that dispensaries are located over 600 feet from a Public Library, and not meant to include other businesses or institutions that include a library component as part of their business. A business license is not a land use permit and does not authorize or convey zoning compliance or planning approval. The fact that the subject business was issued a business license identifying it is a non-profit library does not convey any use status for the purposes of the Municipal Code.

Chapter 17.80 of the Zoning Code includes a glossary of specialized terms and land use types. Section 17.80.010 (Purpose of Chapter) specifically states “...If a word is not defined in this Chapter, ***or in other provisions of the Municipal Code***, the Zoning Administrator shall determine the correct definition.” [emphasis added]. In the instant situation, the term “Library” is not defined in the Zoning Code, but ***is*** defined elsewhere

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in the City's Municipal Code. Specifically, in Library is defined in Title 4, Section 4.109.120 of the Municipal Code Therefore, the term "Library" shall also apply to the provisions of Title 17.

Pursuant to Section 17.80.010 of the Zoning Code and Section 4.109.120 of the Municipal Code, "Library" means:

The Pasadena library system and each of the branches thereof as the same may exist from time to time, together with any additions or betterments thereto, or improvements, extensions or expansions thereof.

Accordingly, the 600-foot separation requirement shall only apply to public libraries as defined in Section 4.109.120 of the Municipal Code, and shall not apply to bookstores or private businesses or Anthroposophical Societies that operate "libraries" as a component of their overall operations.

Sincerely,



JULIE A. GUTIERREZ
Assistant City Manager

c: David M. Reyes, Director of Planning & Community Development