



City of Somerville

# OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

City Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

**TO:** Mayor Ballantyne  
**FROM:** Charlotte Leis, MAC Liaison  
**DATE:** February 8, 2023  
**RE:** Update on tenth round of HCA applications

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The Marijuana Advisory Committee (MAC) reviewed one new application that was received as part of the tenth round of applications. The MAC is recommending one application for a Host Community Agreements (HCA) at this time. The MAC's thoughts on their review of the application are below.

**These entities scored 16.75 points or more and are recommended for HCAs at this time:**

Core Empowerment, 500 Medford St, total score: 19.25

Core Empowerment received an HCA as part of the third round; this application is for a new location by the same team. The team consists of April Arrastate (55% ownership), Tomas Gonzalez (12%), and Peri Higgins (10%), and previously received an HCA for a retail store at 288 Broadway.

*Location: 4.5*

- The property is in the Mid Rise 4 zoning district in the Magoun Square neighborhood. It is just over 0.25mi away from the Magoun Square GLX stop. The location is also well served by bus routes.
- The proposal is to replace a liquor store, which maintains the same type of use on the property. There are commercial vacancies in Magoun Square, so having new commercial uses in the area is good.
- Frequency of deliveries (anticipated to be multiple times per week) is a concern, but smaller sized vehicles will help address that concern.
- There is a municipal parking lot nearby that can provide parking if necessary.

*Physical Space: 4.75*

- The MAC likes the openness of the storefront, assuming the design will be approved by the CCC.

*Operations/Industry Knowledge: 5*

- The team has an impressive amount of experience across the cannabis industry, and already has a retail store operating in Boston. Also, the team provides technical assistance to other partners.

*Community Involvement: 5*

- The team has a solid history of engagement with the community around their Boston location, and has already begun outreach efforts to Somerville nonprofits.
- They plan to actively recruit employees from the surrounding area in acknowledgement of potential transportation challenges in the area.