



COMMUNITY COOKS

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October 17, 2019

Alex Mello
Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
City of Somerville
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Mr. Mello and Friends at the City of Somerville,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Green Soul Organics' application for a license to open a retail cannabis dispensary at 23 Highland Street in Davis Square.

I have been consistently impressed by the commitment of Taba Moses, GSO, and the Green Soul Foundation to prioritizing community empowerment, service, and giving back as an integral component of their business philosophy and practices—specifically the work they are beginning to do to restore economic mobility within traditionally marginalized communities. We strongly support their planned efforts to provide workforce development and diversity training that increase economic opportunity for people of color who have previously been disproportionately impacted by high rates of arrest and incarceration for drug offenses.

Community Cooks, GSO and the GS Foundation are excited to build a partnership with initial plans to work together on the following:

- CC will work with GSO to form one or more volunteer cooking teams that will provide home-cooked meals for neighbors in need at one or more of our nonprofit partner agencies
- GSO and the GS Foundation will help CC increase our efforts to recruit volunteers in local communities of color which is a priority for us—and which we know we need to do better
- CC will help GSO and the GS Foundation with networking/outreach efforts in the Somerville nonprofit community that will enable them to more effectively recruit local candidates for their workforce development program
- Other collaborations to be determined

I strongly urge you to support Green Soul Organics' licensing application and believe they will be a valuable addition to our community.

Sincerely,

Daniele Levine
Executive Director