MEMORANDUM #4

DATE: May 29, 2020

TO: Members of the Planning Commission

FROM: Kim Hunter, Director of Building & Planning

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 3 – Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Please see the attached letter received from the appellant, Dina Obrenovic, and the 26 letters of support of Ms. Obrenovic’s appeal to allow the issuance of her commercial cannabis cultivation license (CCL #618) for a Cottage indoor license of up to 500 square feet of canopy on Assessor’s Parcel 010-690-02-00 (3120 Bear Creek Road).

Note: This Memorandum is the 2nd for agenda item 3. The first Memorandum was included in the staff packet for the May 28th meeting which was cancelled.
APPEAL P-20-12
DINA OBRENOVIC
ATT: TRINITY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
RECEIVED
MAY 27 2020
TRINITY COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Good evening,

My name is Dina Obrenovic, I am tenant on 3120 Bear creek rd. and applicant for cannabis license number 618. I came to this property in the beginning of 2019, and since then I have been working hard to get all the requirements done in order to obtain the license and start my legal business. Throughout the year, all the necessary inspection were done including Water Board, Fish and Game, Biological study and more and all required fees paid.

I applied for the smallest cannabis license, 500 sq. feet indoor cottage, thinking it will not bother anyone since there is no smell, no possible environmental contamination, and very small water consumption. I invested so much effort, whole year of my life, all my savings and more. First time when I walked in the building of Planning Department in Weaverville and ask about this property and licensing process, I have been told this is the place where I am allowed to grow and no one said that neighbors have such a strong negative attitude towards cannabis industry. I see in the staff report, most of the neighbors are using my landlord as a main reason to not accept my license, I believe in this country nobody should be held accountable for someone else’s actions.

Since the day one I tried to be a good neighbor, even though most of the times I felt unwelcomed probably because I am not born and raised here or how I make a living, with an a exception of few very nice people.

Due to the pregnancy I subleased the property and left, to give birth and take care of my son until he grows a little. That happened in September 2019. My plan was to come back once the license is issued. Plants were on the property without my knowledge and consent, and I feel it would be unfair to not to get this license after all hard work I put.

I am a single mother with 5 months old baby, and we depend on this license. I didn’t expect this turn of event. I am truly hoping you will reconsider this denial, recognize my innocence, and help me and my son obtain the license. Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen.
From: Mitch Ivanoff  
Lewiston, CA 96052  
(323) 819-3018

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s decision (P-20-12)

My name is Mitch Ivanoff and I’m independent consultant from Lewiston. Dina hired me some time in January of 2019 to help her with the application process for cottage indoor cultivation license. Dina has complied with all state and local regulations and the issuance of her license was published in Trinity Journal at the end of January, 2020. In the beginning of February, a neighbor challenged the issuance of her license stating unsubstantiated claims such a water issues, soil pollution, and increase in traffic. A week after challenging the issuance of her license was filed, the Sheriff’s office served a search warrant on the property she was leasing from Leon Draper. The deputies found individual by the name Gabriel on the property. Dina has subleased the property to him some time in fall, 2019, since she was pregnant and baby was coming due in November. Dina subleased the property to Gabriel who was supposed to stay on the property and take care of it until Dina receives her license from the county and baby grows up. Subsequently, it became apparent that Gabriel, without Dina’s consent and knowledge, may have had more than 6 plants on Dina’s property. As a result of the raid by the sheriff’s office, TC Planning Department denied the issuance of Dina’s license without considering that she did not have knowledge about what had occurred on her property. Also, per the letter of denial, it appears that the planning department has denied the license because Dina’s landlord may have been involved in unlawful cultivation on another parcel; this is further evidence that Dina is being denied license unfairly.

Further, Dina is applying for a Cottage Indoor license of up to 500 sq. ft. of canopy. Indoor operations as this require no more than 100 gallons per day and no more than one person to run. This is further evidence that the Bear Creek watershed will not be affected and no extra traffic will be created. Most properties on Bear Creek Road divert surface water from the creeks in the neighborhood, which directly affects fish and wildlife. Dina’s project will be fully supplied from a groundwater well. Indoor operations as this do not contaminate soil, produce odor, or noise. Her project is fully enclosed, carbon filters installed, and excess water recycled to avoid any adverse effects on the neighborhood and environment. Last, Dina’s property is at the end of a 3-mile long dirt road and the closest neighbor is at least 1,500 feet away. None of the concerned neighbors will even feel that this small project exists.
Due to Dina’s obvious innocence, demonstrated efforts to be compliant with the state and county laws, and the minimal size of her project, we kindly request the Commission to reverse the denial of her license and give her a chance.

Sincerely,

Mitch
From: Hana Durovic  
149 Canyon Creek rd  
Junction City, Ca 96048  
(929) 303-6305

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Hello,

My name is Hana, resident of Junction City. I am writing this email to give my support to Dina, who is a caring person and a good neighbor. She was working hard to get this license, and it would be unfair because someone else's mistake to get denied. She did everything according to the rules. Thank you for understanding ladies and gentlemen.

Durovic Hana  
5. 20. 2020
From: Katarina Coric  
241 Jennings Rd  
Weaverville, CA 96093  
(530) 515-7800

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Dear Planning Commissioners:

My name is Katarina Coric and I have been a resident of Weaverville for over 4 years now. I have known Dina Obrenovic for more than 10 years. I would like the Planning Commission to reconsider the Planning Director’s decision to deny her a license. Trinity County needs more people like Dina. She is an exceptional personal character and very hard working woman. She was denied license because of her landlord and her tenant. This is super unfair to her. She was unaware of anything that occurred on her property. Also, it seems that she is being treated unfairly because of her landlord, whereas he has nothing to do with her family and business. Reversing the Planning Director’s decision to approve Dina’s license will be good for the community and the environment. Her small project will not bother the neighbors and have zero impact on fish and wildlife. Please give Dina a chance and approve Dina’s license!

Thank you for considering my concern on this matter.

Sincerely,

Katarina Coric  
05/24/2020
From: Valentin Ivanov  
P.O. Box 801  
Lewiston, CA 96052  
(323) 420-5726

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Dear Planning Commissioners:

I’m writing to you in regards to the appeal of the Planning Director’s decision to deny Dina Obrenovic Cottage - Indoor License. I would like to express my concern and frustration about this case. It is very unfair that Dina was denied a cottage license because of her tenant and because of the deeds of her landlord. She should not be punished because of third parties. Dina had a baby in November and it is obvious that she would not be able to grow on the property! She needs to take care of her baby and she needs to obtain the license so that she can provide for her 2-member family. I read the previous staff report and it seems to me that the neighbors are just trying to sabotage the issuance of her license. They claim that she is not compliant with CEQA, but in fact she is legally exempt from CEQA due to the de minimis impact to the environment and very small size of her operation. Her neighbors claim that she will impact the water supply of the neighborhood, while they themselves are diverting surface water and using springs for their domestic supply. Dina will use a groundwater well for her operation. The surface water diversions impact the environment and plants and animal habitats. Please seriously and objectively reconsider planning director’s decision. Dina is eligible for license and she has applied for a license in area where it is legal to grow; the county ordinance is evidence of this.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration! I really hope you will give Dina a chance and reverse planning director’s decision to deny.

Valentin

5.25.2020
From: Bojan Boskovic  
241 Jennings Rd  
Weaverville, CA 96093  
(530) 768-9299

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Dear Planning Commissioners,

My name is Bojan Boskovic and I’m a cannabis license holder and resident of Trinity County. I’m writing to you today regarding the decision of the Planning Dpt. of denying the license to Dina Obrenovic. I’ve been witness on how hard a single mother can fight for her family, I know how hard Dina has worked towards obtaining that license, I’m begging you please to reconsider, since she was wrongfully accused and revoke the decision of the planning Director. Thank you for your time and attention to the matter.

Bojan Boskovic

05/26/2020
From: Sasa Miljkovic
69 Dolly Varden Ln
Junction City, Ca 96048
(708) 704-9216

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Hello,

My name is Sasa, I am a licensed cultivator in Trinity County. Today I would like to point out the fact that Dina’s license does not have nothing to do with her landlord or the person she subleased the property to. This decision is unfair and I am asking you please to let this girl work and provide for her child. Thank you for being considerate about it.

05/24/2020
From: Sava Stanisavljevic  
521 Dredger Pl  
Junction City, Ca 96048

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Dear Planning Commissioners,
I’m writing this in order to express my support for Dina Obrenovic on the appeal p/20/12. A lot of environmental complaints from the neighborhood, that’s why the planning department has such a strict system of inspections and environmental studies, and Dina did them even though she was CEQUA exempt, I’m pretty aware everyone of us knows how much all this studies cost, and a huge percentage of the population against cannabis think we are all millionaires and wealthy people, which some are and some are not, so after all the work and all the energy some neighbors try to kick her out now, when nobody told her nothing before she applied. The planning dpt was aware of the bear creek situation, never said a word to her.

Thank you for listening.
Sava

05. 28. 2020
From: Sladjan Antanasijevic  
100 Wild Rose Ln  
Weaverville, Ca 96093  
(929) 990-7319

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director's Decision (P-20-12)

Hello,

My name is Sladjan Antanasijevic, I am a multiple license holder in Trinity County, and I have known Dina for more than 10 years. As far as I know, she did everything to be in compliance with local and state regulation. She should not be punished for the deed of the third parties, in the area where you can legally obtain cultivation license. I am asking you to reconsider this decision, she put a lot of effort into making this happen. Thank you.

05/21/2020
From: Petar Sipetic  
1010 Upper rd  
Junction City, Ca 96048  
(707) 601-9501  

To: Trinity County Planning Commission  

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director's Decision (P-20-12)  

Hello,  

My name is Petar Sipetic, licensed holder from Junction City and I am writing to give my support to Dina. I would like you to reconsider the director's decision to cancel her license, since we need more legal growers and in this way we can protect our environment. We should not deny the right of people to get licensed. Thank you for understanding, I really appreciate it.  

Petar Sipetic  
05/23/20
From: Natasa Gavrilovic
761 Barker Valley Road
Hayfork, Ca 96041
(925) 765-7362

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director's Decision (P-20-12)

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Writing today in support of Dina Obrenovic, I consider in my opinion that she has been wrongfully accused and she is obviously targeted by some of the most radical anti-cannabis people in Trinity County, because if not, please someone to explain us how a small cottage indoor enclosed is such a big criminal enterprise in that hill, just because they don't tolerate the landlord, they are treating her like a real criminal.

After all the reports I read about the landlord and the situation I wonder if Dina is the actual victim here.

She should get the license and try to move in a more welcoming neighbourhood, since she is been pushed out and discriminated because of the nature of her business and even maybe on her nationality, it wouldn't be the first of us trapped in discrimination around here.

I'm trying to find a reason why she should be denied of the license and I really can't find a real reason for it, please consider changing the outcome of her license and her life.

Thank you for taking this letter into consideration.
Natasa Gavrilovic

[Signature]

05/23/20
From: Djordje Glisovic  
2104 Union Ridge rd  
Weaverville, Ca 96093  
(408) 991-4138

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Hi,

My name is Djordje Glisovic from Weaverville. I am a licensed cultivator in Trinity County and I am writing to you today regarding the case of Dina Obrenovic. As far as I read the staff report I saw that neighbors are worried about safety, which I see as a paradox, since this would be a legal business approved by Trinity County and the State of California. I just wanted to point that fact out. Thank you so much.

[Signature]

05/22/20
From: Leticia Buckhanon  
600 N Union Ridge rd  
Weaverville, Ca 96093  
(408) 985-3352

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Hello ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Leticia Buckhanon and I am writing to you to support small businesses as this one. As I can see, Dina was published in Trinity Journal and because of someone else’s mistake she should not have been punished. I think she deserves a chance, especially because she is not a threat to anyone. Thank you so much.

05/23/2020
From: Bojan Arsic  
241 Cannonbal Rd Platina  
Wildwood, Ca 96076  
(646) 992-7978  

To: Trinity County Planning Commission  

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)  

Hello,  

My name is Bojan Arsic from Wildwood and I am a licensed cannabis cultivator. I have got interested in this case and decided to write to you today. My opinion is that the County would benefit financially and economically from issuing this license. Legal businesses like this will provide valuable revenue to otherwise struggling businesses in the area. Please keep this in mind. We want her to be successful. Thank you.

B.A.  
05/26/2020
From: MIROSLAV MARIN  
211 Goa Way  
Weaverville, Ca 96093  
(925) 457-6380

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director's Decision (P-20-12)

Dear Planning Commissioners,
I've been reading in the staff report in some of the neighbour letters are implying that cannabis cultivation automatically will bring criminality and all the negativity attached to illegal activities, we came along long way to show not only the county but the state and the country that the criminality involved with cannabis growing is a very small percentage when performed well. I don't think a small operation will bring such a thing to nobodies neighborhood.

I think is very unfair the treat this girl is getting from some of the neighbours, and I'm writing you to show my support to her and our community. I hope you have this letter in consideration and give her the license.

Thank you very much  
MIROSLAV MARIN  

05.24.2020
From: Jelena Sipetic  
149 Canyon Creek rd  
Junction City, Ca 96048  

To: Trinity County Planning Commission  

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director's Decision (P-20-12)  

Dear Planning Commissioners,  

I hope you find this letter well, I'm writing today in support of Dina Obrenovic who in my believe is innocent and wrongfully accused and has been treat unfairly, so I hope you might be able to fix this situation and do the right thing.  

Jelena Sipetic  
05. 20. 2020
From: Darin Todorov
767 Barker Valley Rd
Hayfork, Ca 96041
(443) 468-4477

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I’m typing this letter to show support to Dina Obrenovic in order for her to get her license. I think we are all aware of how much investment takes any type of growing license, for a few neighbours to be complaining without any real reason, the setbacks are far, the grow is the smallest available on the county and is enclosed indoor cottage.

Thank you for your time. Have a great day
Darin

05/24/2020
From: Mico - Lewiston, CA 96052

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Dear Planning Commissioners, my name is Mico and I’m a resident of Lewiston. I have been following the Planning Commission’s hearings for some time now. Although I tend not to comment on some of the issues, Dina Obrenovic’s appeal really set me off. Reading the staff report, it seems that the county is siding with some of her Dina’s neighbors, although Bear Creek Road is not an opt-out zone. I have talked to friends and some local consultants and it appears to me that Dina’s neighbors would not like to resolve their differences in a diplomatic way. They want their voices to be heard, but they don’t want Dina’s voice heard; what a double standard! For someone to decide to hire a lawyer to fight a 500 sq. ft. cultivation license only speaks for the decency of their character and lack of competency. It looks like even their lawyer is not very familiar with the CEQA regulations because Dina’s project is exempt from CEQA. Last, it seems that neighbors associate Dina with her landlord. For someone to do so, he or she must not really have valid points to support denial of Dina’s license and out of despair they try to swing the commission in the wrong direction.

Please reconsider the Planning Director’s denial and bring justice to this case.

Thank you,

Mico

5-18-2020

Handwritten Notes:
05-25-20
From: Dragoljub Raicevic - Lewiston, CA 96052

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director's Decision (P-20-12)

I'm Dragoljub and live in Lewiston. I do not cultivate cannabis and I'm for strong environmental protection policy. Thinking about Dina's situation, I think approving her small cottage license will be beneficial to the environment, since it will not have any negative impact. Also, having one more small business in trinity county will have a positive economic impact on the community. Last, I read the Staff Report and it seems that this is a very simple situation exaggerated. It appears that the Planning Commision would not like Dina to obtain a license because of her neighbors; not her compliance efforts.

Please reconsider the Planning Director's decision.

Dragoljub

5-20-2020

05/24/20
From: Bosko Radojevic  
1010 Upper Rd  
Junction City, CA 96048  
(708) 937-8232

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Dear Planning Commissioners:

I’m writing to you today as a Trinity County resident and a Cannabis License holder, and someone who knows Dina.

She has been wrongfully accused, after everything she did. She fought, she got what she needed, she completed all the inspections, and she was published in the newspapers at the same time that she just had a newborn, ask yourself why would she gamble everything? 204 plants were found in that property which she didn’t know about 198 of them, which anyways seems a little unfair and disproportionate punishment, especially for someone innocent.

Thank you for listening to us.
Bosko R.

05/17/2020
Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:49 AM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision

P-20-12

From: Milica Dragutinovic <milicadragutinovic@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 2:50 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision

From: Milica Dragutinovic
69 Dolly Varden Ln
Junction City, Ca 96048
(708) 501-8449

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Hello everyone,
My name is Milica, I am writing you to say that I support Dina 100 percent. In everything what she does, she gives her maximum, and I know this was a long road for her to take. I read stuff report and honestly I couldn’t believe it since a lot of things were not true. From the beginning she wanted to do everything legally, she did pass all inspections, paid all legal fees.
Also I dont think is fair from neighbors to talk about her in the way that did. She is an individual in all of this process. She deserves to get that license. I would ask you please to reconsider this decision.
Thank you.

Best regards

Milica Dragutinovic

Get Outlook for iOS
Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:52 AM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Appeal of Planning Director's Decision (P-20-12)

From: branislavvucurovic <branislavvucurovic@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 12:30 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Hello,

My name is Branislav Vucurovic, from Lewiston. After I read stuff report, I decided to point out few things that I think are not right. It is absolutely ridiculous to criminalize someone who paid all the legal fees, did all inspections in the order to obtain cannabis licence. Here occurred a mistake, that hopefully Dina will be able to clarify, since she subleased her property for couple of months. I know how much hard work she has put on this, and I am truly hoping I will have influence on you to change your mind about denying her license. She didn’t deserve that. Thank you very much, I appreciate it.

Branislav Vucurovic
470 Henrietta road Lewiston, CA 96052
Phone number (925) 457-6380
Hello,

My name is Nikola Rakocevic, a license holder from Douglas City. I am writing you to express my opinion about this matter. As far as I know this operation is a small indoor operation that will not have any negative impact on the neighborhood or environment. This should be one of the reasons to approve the license. This will prevent someone else from obtaining a 10,000 sq feet license, which is way worse for the neighborhood and environment. I am please asking you to consider my request. Thank you
Vladimir Pavlovic
2104 Union Ridge Rd
Weaverville, Ca 96093
(347) 872-0160

Dear Planning Commissioners,
I’m writing today just to express my concern on what can happen, in the situation that we are worldwide, to a single mother like Dina, if she loses this chance after she invested all her savings, and this neighbours without any real reason, besides the landlord, trying to kick this girl out.

She has two, forty ft containers, fully compliant with code, waiting for green light, I’m sure she never meant this to happen like this, she had her newborn very recently and she needs this opportunity back.

Thank you very much
From: Mima Stojsic <mica_1108@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 11:44 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Dina

From: Milica Stojsic
13480 Ca-3
Hayfork, Ca 96041
(925)285-2269

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Subject: Appeal of Planning Director’s Decision (P-20-12)

Dear Planning Commissioners,
Hello, my name is Milica Stojsic, from Hayfork, I am typing to say the things i know about Dina.
She is very nice person, she fought for this licence very much, and in any moment she didn’t want to do nothing against the county and state rules , especially because this is the future of her son. She didn’t do anything to jeopardize this license , she was not knowing what is going on in the property. I am asking you please to reconsider this decision.
Thank you!
From: Ilya Makarov <ilya_makarov@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 10:58 AM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Appeal of Planning Director's Decision (P-20-12)

Hello,
Please see the attached letter for the Appeal process.
Thank you,
Ilya
Hello Board of Supervisors,

My name is Ilya Makarov, I am a resident of Trinity county and also a commercial cannabis license holder. I have known Dina for quite some time and I knew that she was in process for obtaining Trinity County Cultivation License.

Prior to this meeting I looked over County’s Planning Commission Report, and “Comments Regarding the Appel” from Missis Sally Barrow. It became obvious to me that Missis Sally Borrow and Mister Brian Barrow fabricated facts.

Mr. and Mss. Borrow is stating that she had a long history with Mr. Leon Draper but he has nothing to do with Dina’s application and all the proses she went through to get legal. He has nothing to do with the license, and his name is nowhere to be found. His name is only on owner’s permeation because he is the property owner.

She also states that 7000 dollars were seized. I feel that it’s a price of 2 maybe 3 mounts of rent in Trinity county.

Unlike Mss. Borrow I am convinced that Applicant have proven their want to do everything by the rules. And They Did.

Because I have County License, I know how hard and labor-intensive application proses is.

Dina (Applicant) went through every possible agency and had all the inspections possible, including Fish and Game, Water Board, Biological and Cultural Study Water Calculations... you name it.

It’s not an easy nor cheap proses. So back to 7000 dollars, it will cost anywhere from 3000 to 7000 dollars just for Cultural and Biological Studies.

Sally and Brian Barrow went as far as to hire a lawyer (James Underwood) to fight micro 500 sq. feet indoor cultivation.

Mr. Underwood states that CEQA exemption does not apply because the Applicant didn’t supply document which show pre-existing, legal or illegal commercial cannabis cultivation operation, but his Client, Sally Borrow states that there was a previous cultivation operation. He also states in paragraph 2 on the 4th page that there was previous cultivation.

Mr. Underwood also states in his letter that Mr. and Mss. Borrow have concern about Water, Road Use, and Neighborhood safety, which I would understand, if it was true. I live in trinity County and all License holders I know, have never had any problems in their neighborhoods. We are all working to make Trinity County safe and nice to live in, however I can’t sit still if someone from “Pot Hating” community is blatantly lying about the damage that a 500 sq. foot cultivation can and will do.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask the Board of Supervisors to reverse their decision on Denial, because I feel that the applicant did everything what was required from her to be approved, and only because Mss. Sally, who is not even a direct neighbor, had a problem with the word cannabis, she got denied.

Thank you for your time.