

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

# PLANNING BOARD

CITY HALL ANNEX, 344 BROADWAY, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

2020 JAN 29 PM 12:39  
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

## NOTICE OF DECISION

Case Number:	322 Amendment #1
Address:	110 Fawcett Street
Zoning:	Industry B-2 / Alewife Overlay District / Flood Plain Overlay District
Applicant:	Revolutionary Clinics II, Inc. 9 Bartlet Street, #335, Andover, MA 01810
Owner:	Belam Realty, LLC 15 Ward Street, Somerville, MA 02143
Application Date:	October 21, 2019
Date of Planning Board Public Hearing:	November 12, 2019
Date of Planning Board Decision:	November 12, 2019
Date of Filing Planning Board Decision:	January 29, 2020
Application:	Amendment to previously granted Special Permit Decision that authorized Cardiac Arrhythmia Syndromes (CAS) Foundation, Inc. (now doing business as Revolutionary Clinics II, Inc.) to operate a registered marijuana dispensary (RMD) occupying approximately 4,740 square feet at 110 Fawcett Street. Amendment would authorize the co-location of a Cannabis Retail Store for the sale of cannabis products for non-medical use pursuant to Sections 11.802.1(c) and 10.43 of the Zoning Ordinance, with no changes proposed to the building or site.
Decision:	GRANTED, with Conditions.

Appeals, if any, shall be made pursuant to Section 17 of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, and shall be filed within twenty (20) days after filing of the above referenced decision with the City Clerk. Copies of the complete decision and final plans, if applicable, are on file with the Community Development Department and the City Clerk.

Authorized Representative of the Planning Board: Swaathi Joseph

For further information concerning this decision, please contact Liza Paden at 617-349-4647, or [lpaden@cambridgema.gov](mailto:lpaden@cambridgema.gov).

## DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED

### Application Documents and Supporting Material

1. Special Permit Application submitted on 10/21/19, including, *inter alia*, Application Forms, Project Narrative, Description of Activities, Transportation Logistics Plan prepared by Howard Stein Hudson, Community Outreach Summary, Dimensional Form, plan set prepared by Elton Hampton Architects dated 7/30/18.
2. Presentation slides shown to Planning Board on 11/12/19.

### City of Cambridge Documents

3. Memorandum from Community Development Department (CDD) staff dated 11/4/19.
4. Memorandum from Joseph E. Barr, Director of Traffic, Parking and Transportation, dated 11/4/19.

## APPLICATION SUMMARY

In a February 16, 2017 special permit decision (“Original Decision”) the Planning Board approved a proposal by CAS Foundation, Inc. (now doing business as Revolutionary Clinics II, Inc.) to operate a RMD. The proposal included 8 off-street parking spaces, 4 long-term and 6 short-term bicycle parking spaces. A small project Parking and Transportation Demand Management (PTDM) plan was approved for the creation of new off-street parking spaces. The Conservation Commission granted an Order of Conditions to approve this project pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and the Planning Board granted a special permit for building construction in the Flood Plain Overlay District. Following the issuance of the Original Decision, CAS Foundation, Inc. rebranded and changed its name to Revolutionary Clinics II, Inc.<sup>1</sup> The RMD is currently in operation subject to the regulations of the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission. The current application seeks an amendment to the Original Decision in order to approve the sale of cannabis products for non-medical use at the same facility. No changes are proposed to the building or the parking spaces as part of this amendment. The requested special permits are discussed in detail in the Findings below.

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<sup>1</sup> CAS Foundation, Inc. underwent a name change to Revolutionary Clinics II, Inc. on May 17, 2017. Then on May 31, 2018, Revolutionary Clinics II, Inc. converted from a non-profit corporation organized pursuant to G.L. c.180 into a domestic business corporation pursuant to G.L. c.156, as authorized by Chapter 55 of the Acts of 2017, Section 72, which authorizes a non-profit corporation to convert into a domestic corporation by complying with the provisions of G.L. c.156D, §9.51.

## FINDINGS

After review of the Application Documents and other documents submitted to the Planning Board, testimony given at the public hearing, and review and consideration of the applicable requirements and criteria set forth in the Zoning Ordinance with regard to the relief being sought, the Planning Board makes the following Findings:

### 1. Approval of a Cannabis Retail Store (Section 11.800)

The proposed site is located within the Industry B-2 District (IB-2). The Planning Board may grant a special permit approving a Cannabis Retail Store within this district upon finding that the proposal meets the criteria set forth in Section 11.800. The Board finds that these criteria are met, for the reasons set forth below.

#### *11.803 Location Standards.*

##### *11.803.1 Cannabis Retail Stores.*

*(a) Cannabis Retail Stores shall be allowed only by Planning Board Special Permit within the following districts: Business A (BA), Business A-1 (BA-1), Business A-2 (BA-2), Business A-3 (BA-3), Business B (BB), Business B-1 (BB-1), Business B-2 (BB-2), Business C (BC), Industry A-1 (IA-1), Industry B (IB), Industry B-1 (IB-1), and Industry B-2 (IB-2) districts, and special districts and overlay districts whose use regulations are based on those of any of the aforementioned districts, subject to any limitations set forth in the regulations of those districts. In the Business A-1 district, only applicants that have been designated as Economic Empowerment Applicants or certified as eligible to participate in the Social Equity Program by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission may be permitted and it shall be made a condition of the special permit that such designation or eligibility shall be maintained.*

The site is within the Industry B-2 district, where Cannabis Retail Stores are allowed under current zoning.

*(b) A Cannabis Retail Store shall not be permitted within one thousand and eight hundred (1,800) feet of another Cannabis Retail Store, except if the applicant has been designated as an Economic Empowerment Applicant or certified as eligible to participate in the Social Equity Program by the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission and it is made a condition of the special permit that such designation or eligibility shall be maintained.*

This site is not within 1,800 feet of another Cannabis Retail Store.

*(c) All products offered to consumers shall be pre-packaged off-site, and no packaging or repackaging of cannabis or marijuana products shall take place on the premises of a Cannabis Retail Store unless it is also meets the requirements for a Cannabis Production Facility.*

All products are pre-packaged at the cultivation facility. No cultivation, packaging, or re-packaging is proposed at the Cannabis Retail Store.

*11.803.3 Buffer Zones.*

*(a) A Cannabis Retail Store or Cannabis Production Facility shall not be permitted within 300 feet of a pre-existing public or private school providing education in kindergarten or any of grades one through 12, except where the Planning Board, in issuing a special permit, approves a reduced distance upon finding that the location will cause no substantial adverse impact due to site-specific factors or other mitigating efforts agreed to in writing by the permittee and made conditions of the special permit.*

The Application Documents indicate that there are no public or private K-12 schools within 300 feet of the proposed location.

*(b) A Cannabis Retail Store or Cannabis Production Facility shall not be permitted within 300 feet of a pre-existing public children's playground, public youth athletic field, or public youth recreation facility, except where the Planning Board, in issuing a special permit, approves a reduced distance upon finding that the location will cause no substantial adverse impact due to site-specific factors or other mitigating efforts agreed to in writing by the permittee and made conditions of the special permit.*

The Application Documents indicate that there are no public children's playgrounds, public youth athletic fields, or public youth recreation facilities within 300 feet of the proposed location.

*11.805 Special Permit Criteria. In granting a special permit for a Cannabis Retail Store or Cannabis Production Facility, in addition to the general criteria for issuance of a special permit as set forth in Section 10.43 of this Zoning Ordinance, the Planning Board shall find that the following criteria are met:*

*(a) The site is designed such that it provides convenient, safe and secure access and egress for customers and employees arriving to and leaving from the site using all modes of transportation, including drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and public transportation users.*

A transportation logistics plan prepared by Howard Stein Hudson has been provided with the Application, and has been reviewed by the Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department ("TP&T"). While there is limited data about traffic generated by a Cannabis Retail Store, the expectation is that the traffic will not be significantly greater than that of a typical retail establishment of similar size and should have minimal impacts on transportation in the neighborhood. The proposed co-location within the RMD will have convenient access to sidewalks and public transportation within a mile. The Applicant has committed to submitting an operations plan for approval by TP&T staff and to implementing both transportation demand management (TDM) measures and a monitoring program of employee and customer visits as well as loading and pick-up activities of this project to mitigate any unexpected transportation impacts. The Applicant has also proposed programmatic strategies, including an appointment system, to reduce the potential for queueing.

*(b) On-site loading, refuse and service areas are designed to be secure and shielded from abutting uses.*

No changes are proposed to loading and trash management and will continue to be managed in a similar way to the existing RMD.

*(c) The building and site have been designed to be compatible with other buildings in the area and to mitigate any negative aesthetic impacts that might result from required security measures and restrictions on visibility into the building's interior.*

No changes are proposed to the building or the site from previous approval for the RMD.

*(d) In retail areas, the location and design of the Cannabis Use will not detract from the sense of activity with opaque, unwelcoming façades at the ground floor. Where interior activities must be screened from public view, such areas should be screened by transparent, publicly accessible active business uses where possible. Opaque façades should be minimized, and where they are necessary they should include changing public art displays or other measures to provide visual interest to the public.*

The site is not located in a predominantly retail area and no changes are proposed for the building façade from its previous approval as an RMD.

*(e) If the proposed Cannabis Retail Store or Cannabis Production Facility is not proposed to include a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center, it will nevertheless provide programs to assist qualifying patients within the city or neighborhood who are registered through the Massachusetts Medical Use of Marijuana Program in obtaining services under that program.*

The proposed Cannabis Retail Store will continue to operate as a medical marijuana treatment center and serve all registered medical patients.

## 2. General Criteria for Issuance of a Special Permit (10.43)

The Planning Board finds that the proposal meets the General Criteria for Issuance of a Special Permit, as set forth below.

*10.43 Criteria. Special permits will normally be granted where specific provisions of this Ordinance are met, except when particulars of the location or use, not generally true of the district or of the uses permitted in it, would cause granting of such permit to be to the detriment of the public interest because:*

*(a) It appears that requirements of this Ordinance cannot or will not be met, or ...*

With the requested special permit, the requirements of the Ordinance will be met.

- (b) traffic generated or patterns of access or egress would cause congestion, hazard, or substantial change in established neighborhood character, or ...*

As set forth above in these findings, the proposed use is not expected to adversely impact traffic patterns or the character of the area in general.

- (c) the continued operation of or the development of adjacent uses as permitted in the Zoning Ordinance would be adversely affected by the nature of the proposed use, or ...*

The proposed Cannabis Retail Store is allowed in the district, will be operated in accordance with applicable state and local regulations, and will generate pedestrian and vehicular traffic comparable to that generated by a similarly sized allowed retail use. Therefore, the proposed use and location will not adversely impact adjacent uses.

- (d) nuisance or hazard would be created to the detriment of the health, safety and/or welfare of the occupant of the proposed use or the citizens of the City, or ...*

The proposed Cannabis Retail Store will be operated in accordance with applicable health and safety regulations, as well as state and local regulations particular to cannabis retail stores, which are specifically intended to prevent nuisance or hazard.

- (e) for other reasons, the proposed use would impair the integrity of the district or adjoining district, or otherwise derogate from the intent and purpose of this Ordinance, and ...*

The site is located within the Industry B-2 District, which allows Cannabis Retail Stores, as authorized in a zoning amendment adopted by the City Council in 2018.

- (f) the new use or building construction is inconsistent with the Urban Design Objectives set forth in Section 19.30.*

The design of the building and site previously underwent review and approval by the Planning Board, and no changes are currently proposed to the building or the site. Therefore, the Board finds no inconsistency with applicable urban design objectives.

## DECISION

Based on a review of the Application Documents, testimony given at the public hearings, and the above Findings, the Planning Board hereby GRANTS the requested Special Permit, subject to the following conditions and limitations.

1. This special permit shall authorize only Revolutionary Clinics II, Inc. (the “Permittee”) to establish and operate a Cannabis Retail Store at 110 Fawcett Street, Cambridge, in substantial conformance with the Application Documents and supplemental documents and information submitted by the Applicant to the Planning Board as referenced above. This Cannabis Retail Store is permitted to operate only as a Cannabis Retailer and a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center. No other type of cannabis establishment is hereby permitted. Any activity that involves the cultivation, processing, manufacturing, packaging, storage, transportation, or use of cannabis products shall require an amendment to this special permit, and shall require compliance with all applicable state and local regulations for such activity.
2. The Permittee shall maintain all required state and local licenses and/or registrations and comply with all applicable state and local public health regulations and all other applicable laws, rules and regulations at all times. The Permittee shall execute a Host Community Agreement with the City of Cambridge pursuant to the regulations of the Massachusetts Cannabis Control Commission (“CCC”) and shall have received a Cannabis Business Permit pursuant to the Cambridge Cannabis Business Permitting Ordinance prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.
3. This special permit shall be valid only for the approved 110 Fawcett Street site. Furthermore, the special permit shall only be valid for the original Applicant and shall expire on the date the Permittee either ceases operation of a Cannabis Retail Store, or the Permittee’s License or Certificate of Registration expires or is terminated by the CCC. Any change in the majority ownership of the Cannabis Retail Store from the original application, including without limitation a takeover, merger, sale of assets and equity, or sale to another entity resulting in a majority of the individuals initially disclosed under 935 CMR 500.002 as Controlling Persons failing to maintain a controlling equity interest, shall be reported to the Commissioner of Inspectional Services Department (“ISD”) for purposes of determining whether the change in ownership requires a new special permit or modification of the existing permit for the succeeding owner of the Cannabis Retail Store.
4. No alterations to the building are proposed in the building plan set prepared by Elton Hampton Architects dated 7/30/18, and the presentation to the Planning Board on 11/12/19. Before issuance of each Building Permit for the project, CDD shall certify to the Superintendent of Buildings that the final plans submitted to secure the Building Permit are consistent with and meet all conditions of this Decision. As part of CDD’s administrative review of the project, and prior to any certification to the Superintendent of Buildings, CDD may present any design changes made subsequent to this Decision to the Planning Board for its review and comment.

5. The permitted operating hours of the approved Cannabis Retail Store shall be between 9:00 AM and 11:00 PM daily.
6. The Permittee shall commit to use an on-line pre-purchase and appointment only scheduling system for the non-medical cannabis use operations for the initial 6 months to manage traffic impacts and shall extend the commitment beyond 6 months if it is deemed by the City to minimize transportation impacts.
7. The Permittee shall submit an operations plan to Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department (“TP&T”) for approval prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. The operations plan shall include details regarding management of traffic, parking, and sidewalk crowding to maintain safety and access to adjacent buildings, transit and other key uses. The Permittee shall work with TP&T and the Cambridge Police Department on a specific plan for the opening period to identify and respond to situations related to traffic, parking, transit and bicycling accommodations and any safety issues.
8. The Permittee shall make a contribution to the City’s Bicycle Parking Fund equivalent to the amount necessary to provide three (3) bicycle racks. Such contribution shall be made prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.
9. The Permittee shall contribute \$70,000 to the City toward mitigation of traffic impacts, improvement of transportation services, operations, and information in the area, such as Bluebikes stations, and studies and design of a pedestrian and bicycle bridge over the railroad tracks. This contribution shall be made prior to the issuance of a Building Permit for the approved Cannabis Retail Store.
10. The Permittee shall ensure that the customers and the employees of the Cannabis Retail Store shall not park any vehicles on the adjacent property owned by the MBTA.
11. The Permittee shall be required to implement a transportation demand management (TDM) program and a transportation monitoring and reporting program including, at a minimum, the following measures, which shall be certified by the TP&T and CDD prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for the approved Cannabis Retail Store.
  - a. Provide 100% MBTA T-Pass subsidies to all employees (may be pro-rated for part-time employees). The program shall be administered by the employer through the MBTA Corporate Pass/Perq Program.
  - b. Offer all employees Gold Level Bluebikes bikeshare membership; to be administered through the Bluebikes Corporate Program by the employer.
  - c. Provide lockers for employees that walk or bike to work.
  - d. Have available an air pump and bicycle repair tools for employees and customers to use when needed.



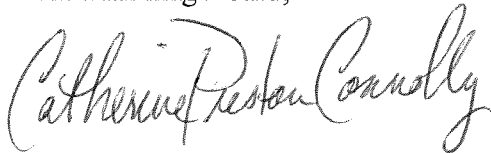
- e. Designate an employee of the facility as a Transportation Coordinator (TC) to manage the implementation of the TDM measures and a transportation monitoring program. The TC shall:
- i. Post in a central and visible location (i.e. lobby for customers, break room for employees) information on available non-automobile services in the area, including, but not limited to:
    1. Available pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the vicinity of the Project site.
    2. MBTA maps, schedules and fares.
    3. "Getting Around in Cambridge" map (available from CDD).
    4. Locations of bicycle parking.
    5. Blue Bikes regional public bikeshare system.
    6. Carpool-matching programs.
    7. Other pertinent transportation information.
      - Instead of or in addition to posting paper MBTA schedules, provide a real-time transportation display screen in a central location to help people decide which mode to choose for each trip.
  - ii. Compile up-to-date transportation information explaining all commuter options and provide to all employees. This information should also be distributed to all new employees as part of their orientation.
  - iii. Provide or describe to customers information on transportation options to access the site.
  - iv. Provide and maintain information on the project's website, newsletters, social media, etc., on how to access the site by all modes, with emphasis on sustainable modes.
  - v. Participate in any TC training offered by the City of Cambridge or a local Transportation Management Association.
  - vi. If requested by TP&T or CDD, the Permittee shall provide information on employees and customer travel modes and where they customarily park, as well as information on loading and service delivery operations. Surveys of employees and customers shall be designed and conducted in a manner approved by TP&T and CDD.
  - vii. The Permittee shall provide a loading and service delivery management plan that includes all delivery activities to TP&T for approval prior to issuance of a Building Permit.
  - viii. The Permittee shall maintain membership in the Alewife TMA and provide employees and patients access to the shuttle bus to/from the Alewife MBTA

station, as provided by the TMA or a comparable shuttle service approved by TP&T and CDD.

12. The Cannabis Retail Store at 110 Fawcett Street shall not be used as a distribution point for home deliveries.
13. Prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for the approved Cannabis Retail Store, CDD shall certify to the Superintendent of Buildings that all Conditions of this Special Permit Decision are met.
14. All authorized development shall abide by all applicable City of Cambridge Ordinances, including the Noise Ordinance (Chapter 8.16 of the City Municipal Code).

Voting in the affirmative to GRANT the Special Permit Amendment were Planning Board Members Louis Bacci, H Theodore Cohen, Steven Cohen, Catherine Preston Connolly, Hugh Russell, Tom Sieniewicz, and Associate Member Nikolas Bowie, appointed by the Chair to act on the case, constituting at least two thirds of the members of the Board, necessary to grant a special permit.

For the Planning Board,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Preston Connolly". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Catherine Preston Connolly, Chair.

A copy of this decision PB #322 Amendment #1 shall be filed with the Office of the City Clerk. Appeals, if any, shall be made pursuant to Section 17, Chapter 40A, Massachusetts General Laws, and shall be filed within twenty (20) days after the date of such filing in the Office of the City Clerk.

ATTEST: A true and correct copy of the above decision has been filed on January 29, 2020 with the Office of the City Clerk, by Swaathi Joseph, duly authorized representative of the Planning Board. All plans referred to in the decision have been filed with the City Clerk on said date.

Twenty days have elapsed since the above decision was filed in the office of the City Clerk and:  
\_\_\_\_\_ no appeal has been filed; or  
\_\_\_\_\_ an appeal has been filed within such twenty days.

The person exercising rights under a duly appealed special permit does so at risk that a court will reverse the permit and that any construction performed under the permit may be ordered undone. This certification shall in no event terminate or shorten the tolling, during the pendency of any appeals, of the periods provided under the second paragraph of G.L. c. 40A, §6.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, City Clerk

Appeal has been dismissed or denied.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, City Clerk

**Appendix I: Approved Dimensional Chart**

	Existing	Allowed or Required	Proposed	Permitted
Lot Area (sq ft)	11,136	5,000	No Change	No Change
Lot Width (ft)	31.38	50	No Change	No Change
Total GFA (sq ft)	4740	8352	No change	4,740 <sup>1</sup>
Residential Base	n/a	n/a	n/a	Consistent with Application Documents and applicable zoning requirements
Non-Residential Base	4740	8352	No Change	
Inclusionary Bonus	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Total FAR	0.42	0.75	No Change	Consistent with Application Documents and applicable zoning requirements
Residential Base	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Non-Residential Base	0.42	0.75	No Change	
Inclusionary Bonus	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Total Dwelling Units	0	n/a	0	No Change
Base Units	n/a	n/a	n/a	Consistent with Application Documents and applicable zoning requirements
Inclusionary Bonus Units	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Base Lot Area / Unit (sq ft)	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Total Lot Area / Unit (sq ft)	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Height (ft)	26	70	No Change	Consistent with Application Documents and applicable zoning requirements
Front Setbacks (ft)	Existing	None	No Change	
Side Setback (ft)	Existing	None	No Change	
Rear Setback (ft)	Existing	None	No Change	
Open Space (% of Lot Area)	Existing	None	No Change	Consistent with Application Documents and applicable zoning requirements
Private Open Space	Existing	None	No Change	
Permeable Open Space	Existing	None	No Change	
Off-Street Parking Spaces	8	5	8 <sup>2</sup>	8 <sup>2</sup>
Long-Term Bicycle Parking	4	1	4 <sup>2</sup>	Consistent with Application Documents and applicable zoning requirements
Short-Term Bicycle Parking	6	3	6 <sup>2</sup>	
Loading Bays	0	0	0	

<sup>1</sup> No change to the existing total GFA.

<sup>2</sup> No change to the existing number of spaces.