



THE COUNCIL  
OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**GALE A. BREWER**

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COVID RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

February 15, 2024

Mr. Alan Sackman  
Chairman, Sackman Enterprises  
165 West 73rd Street  
New York, NY 10023

Dear Mr. Sackman,

It has come to my attention that you are the commercial landlord for an unlicensed cannabis shop that is illegally operating in the district I represent in the New York City Council. Convenience on Columbus Corporation, aka Zaza Waza Smoke Shop, operating at 550 Columbus Avenue, is selling cannabis products without a license in violation of multiple city and state laws. As the building owner, you are potentially liable for legal and financial penalties for this conduct, including increased fines following the cannabis policy reform legislation enacted in 2023, which included specific provisions to address the proliferation of illegal shops.

Specifically, the sale of cannabis products without a license carries penalties for both commercial tenants and landlords under Cannabis Law §138-a, Real Property Action and Proceedings Law §715-a(2), New York City Local Law 107, and New York State Penal Law §222. Commercial landlords are prohibited from knowingly leasing retail space to commercial tenants that sell unlicensed cannabis, cigarette, or tobacco products, and they are advised to take action to investigate an incoming tenant and restrict improper use so as to avoid liability.

I am working in full coordination with the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office, New York City Police Department, New York City Sheriff’s Office, and New York State Office of Cannabis Management to remove unlicensed cannabis retailers from my district and ensure all relevant penalties are levied against commercial tenants and landlords alike. If you seek assistance in taking action against an unlawful commercial tenant, please contact Sam Goldsmith in my office at (212) 788-6975 or sgoldsmith@council.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer

cc: Mr. Richard A. Steinberg, Partner, Brandt, Steinberg, Lewis & Blond