

The Serious Negative Environmental Impact Caused by the Shangri-la Cannabis Cultivation Site

FIRST OF ALL I WANT TO EMPHASIZE, I personally have no political motive here. My only intention is to alert everyone to health hazardous conditions that we experienced so far and what could happen in the future.

I'm, (all of us surrounding Shangri-la) **in my opinion**, are innocent victims to the oversight of a grossly incompetent, arrogant government agency, ("NYS Office of Cannabis Management" OCM), along with an a grossly incompetent and/or possibly, a **knowingly** negligent cannabis cultivation enterprise of Shangri-la Real Estate Holdings LLC., and its partners Gardenworks Farm, & Slack Hollow Organics, LLC.

The information that I will be providing are from extremely reputable sources including our government's National Library of Medicine & The EPA, OCM's license requirements, Town of Moreau Notice of Violation of Chapter 149, along with many cannabis cultivation SUPPORT websites. Unfortunately there is a lot of political polarity with this issue and therefore a lot of biased information that can be used to spin reality one way or the other. If you do research please be aware of that.

The information that I'm providing is, to the best of MY ability and resources, factual.

- FIRST- OCM's License Requirement

In the initial process, anyone interested in cultivating cannabis in NY must be approved for a license by the "New York State Office of Cannabis Management".

One of OCM's the licensing requirements is;

- **"FIND A COMPLIANT LOCATION"**
- **"Cultivators must submit proof of control over their proposed cultivation premises and a certificate of occupancy or its equivalent before commencing licensed operations."**
- **Note: All; premises where licensed activities are taking place must be disclosed to the NYS Office of Cannabis Management".**

The location that Shangri-la chose was **NOT** a compliant location! They **NEVER** contacted the Town of Moreau on their intentions or acquired the proper local permits. And obviously they didn't have proper control over their cultivation process! Does that mean they lied on the OCM's licensing permit? And if so, where is the oversight of the OCM? The OCM never confirmed the information on the application? So far I have been unable to review the OCM's License Permit issued.

Under the freedom of information act I discovered;

Once the town discovered what the Klender's and their **"professional"** associates were doing at the site they very quickly issued a "Violation of Chapter 149". In the violation the town ordered Shangri-la; "To alleviate this violation, grow operations must cease on this property". Shangri answered by appealing the violation. The time it takes for the appeal process has allowed the Klender's and their "professional" associates to bring the 6,000-8,000 cannabis plants to a harvest stage.

- SECOND- **ENVIRONMENTAL** (Health Hazardous Ground Level Ozone & Stench and Hazardous Cannabis Cultivation Runoff)

I discovered in "Environmental Health Perspectives" of "National Library of Medicine" that has recently been discovered, (we have never grown cannabis to this massive degree) the "Skunky" smell for a large cannabis farm is **NOT** a benign innocent terpenes. It is actually from a **Volatile Sulfur Compound known as 3-methyl-2-butene-1-thiol**. This compound is identified by the GHS as a "Health Hazard". What we all experienced from the Shangri-la's farm in recent weeks was of 6,000-8,000 female plants oxidizing with the atmosphere. This process was displacing the healthy atmosphere balance of; 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen with a mixture including the Volatile Sulfur Compound (3-methyl-2-butene-1-thiol) on a massive uncontrollable scale. Because of the awesome weather we had, with beautiful hot calm days during this oxidation process, Shangri-la's cannabis operation ended up creating hazardous ground-level ozone conditions on a regular basis throughout this time period. Some days were worse than others, we were all at mercy of mother nature hoping for winds to come along and break up this hazardous ground-level ozone, (which by the way hazardous ground level ozone is regulated by the EPA and enforced by NYS DEC).

Also, in my visit to the site it appeared that the hazardous runoff of cultivating 6,000-8,000 cannabis plants was going to the ground untreated. Each plant requires approximately 6 gallons of water daily, times 6,000-8,000 plants = a lot of hazardous runoff. Pesticides usage of 1/2 acre of cannabis farming equals 1,000+ acres of corn. Also the cannabis runoff has high levels of metals in it. This runoff should have been treated as a hazardous waste.

- **THIRD- Incompetence, Arrogance, Negligence, and Corruption**

I have a professional background that has trained me to be very aware of oxygen depleted atmosphere (20 years as a Senior Advance Control Operator at a chemical plant, also I am a NYS certified FireFighter and a NYS certified HaZMat Technician). When I almost lost consciousness on one of those really bad days, I knew what was going on, my body responding to dangerous low oxygen levels. Do I have physical proof like a reading from an oxygen analyzer? No, my proof was the effects on my body and my trained professional background. If I ever thought for a minute that this event would turn into such an outrageous chaotic mess of incompetence, arrogance, negligence, and corruption, I would have contacted our local fire department to actually verify the oxygen levels we were experiencing that beautiful hot calm day. On that day thankfully my house was closed up and the air inside my home was safe and I recovered quickly. Immediately I started reaching out for help from the NYS agencies that I professionally knew could respond to this crisis and provide help to protect our health and to take action to correct this outrageous event. The NYS DEC normally would respond to something like this immediately.

This is where the craziness really starts!!!

The NYS Cannabis Law enacted March 31, 2021 Stripped **ALL** cannabis related oversight and interactions from every other state agency. From that date of March 31, 2021 forward the sole NYS department with **ALL** oversight is the OCM!! Yes, even the environmental oversight! In my initial contact with the DEC to report the environmental emergency, I was told of the new cannabis law and that I needed to contact the OCM, they gave me a number to call. To date, throughout this entire event **NO ONE** has answered or responded to any of the calls/messages made to the OCM, emails sent to the OCM personnel have been blocked. I was told by people with official authority in this crisis they too were experiencing the same arrogant results. That is unless I'm contacting them with interest in growing cannabis, in that case there are people on the phone immediately, but when you try to bring attention to a problem they quickly give you a number to call and disconnect. I even went to OCM's offices in Albany. The security guard called up to the OCM's office stating I was in the lobby and was there to report an urgent health and environmental emergency. He was instructed by the OCM employee to tell me to call one of the numbers (that no one answers) and send me on my way.

- **Forth- Our Future**

I am sharing all of this with you (and there is a ton of other info and interactions through this period) because although the cannabis harvesting has started to alleviate the air quality problem and bring back our ability to breathe healthy air and not impact our quality of life, we must remember how much we were violated and the NYS agencies that typically protect our health and environment couldn't help us, their hands were politically tied.

Devin Klender (Shangri-la) wrote and posted "Respectfully we apologize" and stated a lot of other humble B.S (that's my opinion). My opinion on everything that I discovered, (a lot not covered here) and my personal interaction, is that these guys are **NOT** to be trusted. Moving forward, even if you want to believe them, what actions can we take if they don't do all these promises they are making for next year to protect our neighborhood? Or the criteria the town's planning board might dictate? As we just saw, absolutely nothing! They have what seems like diplomatic immunity from NYS laws that everyone else has to obey. On one hand they're apologizing for being stupid and inexperienced, then on the other hand they want us to approve their plans and trust them to set up a much larger, much more sophisticated operation? **REALLY!** My opinion is these guys are either grossly ignorant and incompetent or extremely clever and arrogant and are operating as if they are above the law (and maybe they are?). At this point the only firewall we have left is at the town level. We all need to be active here. Shangri-la is attempting to expand on a very large scale. This potentially will bring issues like require lighting for the greenhouses equivalent to 21,000 plus average street lights, using an outrageous amount of water (each plant requires approx. 6 gals per day), heavily contaminated runoff (pesticides usage of 1/2 acre of cannabis farming equals 1,000+ acres of corn) and the cannabis runoff has high levels of metals in it and it should be treated as a hazardous waste. And then there is of course air quality already discussed. All of these issues can be addressed and solutions engineered. However there is no guarantee that these maintenance costly engineered solutions will be used even if they are in place. Water from the ground is free, as is dumping hazardous waste to the ground. Aerial inspection indicates this is how the Klender's may have practiced cultivation this year. If/when they violate the town conditions in the future, it's de ja vu 2024! The town at that point has little teeth to enforce anything and the state (OCM) who has oversight has proven they won't do anything and actually is protecting them and their illegal activity. The OCM Has proven here that they are grossly inadequate to have oversight of the environmental aspects of cannabis cultivation,(we can only speculate why). But yet DEC and everyone else has been ordered to stay out of OCM's affairs!!!!

- Final

If the Klenders are truly humbled and sorry by all of this I have a solution for the future that is a win win for everyone. Obviously this is a terrible location for your cannabis farm. You're on top of a fairly dense rural population, you're extremely close to a beautiful state park, both having innocent children and wildlife at your mercy, among a long list of other issues. What if you change directions a little? On your property where you illegally farmed this year, go ahead and develop your farm stand (maybe future cannabis dispensary?) as planned. Then instead of a cannabis farm install a solar energy farm. I'm sure that the town and your neighbors here that you say you respect would be thrilled. It is a perfect location for it there. Then I'm sure the town could work with you to find a "**TRUE**" compliant location for your cannabis farm that won't negatively impact so many innocent families. I'm sure that you guys have the resources for this. Why make people hate cannabis farming and give it a bad name?

Your Neighbor,
William Tullock
8 Briarhurst Drive
Gansevoort, New York 12831
william.tullock@gmail.com