

LARA WEISIGER

From: Trish Spencer
Sent: Saturday, July 21, 2018 11:26 AM
To: LARA WEISIGER
Cc: Liz Warmerdam
Subject: Fwd: Decisions on Marijuana in Alameda Should be Evidence-Based

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Serena Chen" <serenatchen@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Jul 21, 2018 at 9:11 AM -0700
Subject: Decisions on Marijuana in Alameda Should be Evidence-Based
To: "Trish Spencer" <TSpencer@alamedaca.gov>, "Frank Matarrese" <FMatarrese@alamedaca.gov>, "Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft" <MEzzyAshcraft@alamedaca.gov>, "Jim Oddie" <JOddie@alamedaca.gov>, "Malia Vella" <MVella@alamedaca.gov>

Dear Mayor Spencer and members of the Council,

Last summer and fall, members of the Alameda community attended multiple hearings lasting several hours each to share with you our concerns about whether and how marijuana businesses need to be controlled. The council adopted ordinances to add marijuana smoking and use to the city's secondhand smoke ordinance and based on this input, created a 1,000 foot buffer zone from schools and youth centers and a proximity restriction between outlets.

Imagine our surprise and disappointment to see that recommendations to loosen those ordinances are on the July 24th council agenda -- even before any businesses have opened and the city has had an opportunity to review its impact.

We need only look at the mental health and drugged driving impacts in Colorado and other states that have recently legalized marijuana without adopting sufficient precautions and the data is not positive.

I hope that you will take a close look at these studies and take the health, mental health, and public safety of Alamedans, especially our youth and children as you take, what many of us consider, to be a premature look at making it easier to have marijuana available here. A sound decision needs to be based on all aspects of marijuana availability -- not just on commerce and profit.

The 400,000 + premature deaths per year from tobacco and 90,000 from alcohol are testimony to earlier decision makers failing to take into account the health and public health risks associated with heavy marketing and easy access to these products.

The recent accident in Posey Tube was reported in the news to have involved drugged driving, including marijuana. Innocent parties were injured as was the individual who was driving recklessly. Every person's life is important but to have our own state controller, her husband and driver injured -- on their way to a decision-making meeting -- put into sharp focus how decisions you as a council make can have far reaching impacts.

I urge you to delay making any decisions about altering the city's much debated and discussed cannabis ordinances until there is more evidence on which to base the decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Serena Chen
931 Independence Dr.
Alameda, CA 94501

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana)** <reply@learnaboutsam.org>

Date: Sat, Jul 21, 2018 at 7:02 AM

Subject: Is Marijuana an Effective Substitute for Opioids?

To: <serenatchen@gmail.com>



Dear friends,

We wanted to make sure you had seen four key studies from the past week:

- A [groundbreaking study in *The Lancet*](#) found that marijuana use over four years actually **made it harder for patients to cope with chronic pain**, and **did not reduce their use of opioids**.
- A [study in *Frontiers in Psychiatry*](#) found that increasing self-exposure to non-medical marijuana was a predictor of **greater odds of opioid dependence** diagnosis.
- A [study in the *International Review of Psychiatry*](#) found an **increased rate of serious mental illness** in states that had legalized medical marijuana.
- [In JAMA](#): "(The) associated acute and long-term psychoactive effects on brain function (of marijuana) are...known. Expanding use of cannabis among pregnant and lactating women (as likely will occur with legalization) may lead to **increased risk from fetal and child exposures** if the teratogenic potential of cannabis remains underappreciated."

Additional Resources on Link Between Marijuana and Opioids

These articles follow other warnings from medical professionals: the recent [editorial](#) published in the Journal of the Society for the Study of Addiction, which cautions against drawing policy conclusions from population studies, and the [editorial comment](#) from the American Society of Addiction Medicine on February 20, 2018. And don't forget NIDA's [rigorous study](#) **showing pot users are twice as likely to have abused opioids and have an opioid use disorder than non-marijuana users.**

SAM has published a [one-pager](#) describing the overwhelming link between marijuana and opioid abuse. While not every marijuana user will go on to use heroin, **nearly all heroin users previously abused marijuana.** We need smart policies that discourage use, get people back on their feet, and restore people to participate in and contribute to society. States that have legalized marijuana, by contrast, see [increased drugged driving](#), increased [arrests of minority youth](#), and increased [emergency room visits](#). Colorado is experiencing the [highest number of drug overdoses](#) in its history. Legalization is a failed experiment.

Please visit learnaboutsam.org to learn about a smarter approach.

Sincerely,



Kevin Sabet
President, Smart Approaches to Marijuana (SAM)
Affiliated Fellow, Yale University

SAM (Smart Approaches to Marijuana), 400 N. Columbus Street,
Suite 202, Alexandria, VA 22314

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Serena
Serena Chen

PORTMAN ENTERPRISES

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To: Mayor Trish Spencer
Vice Mayor Malia Vella
Council Member Jim Oddie
Council Member Frank Matarrese
Council Member Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft
Director Community Development Debbie Potter
Community Development Manager Lois Butler
City Attorney John Le

From: Mark Hersman
Nick Portolese

Date: June 21, 2017

Topic: Cannabis Business Ordinances

Dear City Leaders,

It's our understanding that the initial application period for medicinal dispensaries resulted in two valid applications for the Webster Street cannabis zone, but no valid applications were accepted for the Park St. cannabis zone. Further we understand that Council plans to address this issue in July and may consider changes to the cannabis ordinances to help relieve this logjam. As you are aware, Portman Enterprises has been engaged in this process for a year now, and we continue to have active interest in applying for a medicinal cannabis dispensary license in Alameda.

Given that background, we recommend that the City Council consider the following changes to the Cannabis Ordinance and Cannabis Zoning Ordinance in order to alleviate the issues that prevented any valid applications during the first attempt at licensure.

- Expand the approved cannabis zone from beyond the current two zones of Webster Street and proximity on the West End, and Park Street and proximity on the East End. There are locations mid island in the Clement St., Lincoln Ave., Santa Clara Ave., and Encinal Ave. with commercial zoning that can serve as locations for a dispensary. These locations have less visibility and foot traffic than our two main retail districts, which will reduce the visibility and cultural footprint of these businesses. Additionally rents and

property values in these locations are lower, allowing operators to keep product pricing lower and provide greater value to Alameda consumers.

- Expand approved Zoning Districts for Cannabis Retail. Currently, the following districts are approved:

- CC - Community Commercial
- AP-AR- Alameda Point Adaptive Reuse
- NP-W - North Park St. Workplace Sub District
- NP-G - North Park St. Gateway Sub District

We believe the following Zoning Districts should also be approved for Cannabis Retail

- C1 - Neighborhood Commercial (Includes Drug Stores and Liquor Stores)
 - C2 - Central Business District (Includes Health Centers and Taverns)
 - CM - Commercial Manufacturing
- Maintain the 1000 foot buffer zone as written around sensitive use sites owned or operated by Alameda City or other local governmental entities. (Schools, ARPD after school care sites etc.)
 - Reduce the 1000 foot buffer zone down to the state mandated distance of 600 feet for privately operated sensitive use sites as defined by California State regulation. (Arcades, private day care centers etc.)
 - Maintain the 1 mile dispersion requirement between dispensaries as written
 - Allow the West End license application process to move forward with the two approved applicants. These groups secured properties and applied in good faith, it seems unfair to introduce new potential competition and delays to a process that is working for the Webster Street district.
 - Maintain the LOI/RFP process as written, but reset the application and approval period for the one remaining dispensary license.

While you consider a solution to relieve this logjam, we'd also recommend the following changes to the Cannabis Ordinances:

- Consider approval of a third retail dispensary license. From our research we believe the size and demographics of Alameda would support a third business profitably.
- Consider approving Adult Use recreational sales immediately. State regulations are bringing the medicinal and recreational channels together and approving adult use will remove a significant competitive disadvantage for local operators.

We strongly believe that these minor changes to the cannabis ordinances will alleviate the logjam in securing acceptable properties for cannabis retail while maintaining the spirit of the original ordinances and minimizing any disruption to the social fabric of our community. Again, we thank you for your dedication to our community, and the thoughtful manner in which you are introducing cannabis businesses to Alameda.

Sincerely,

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