

**TRINITY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

PROJECT TITLE: Zone Amendment DEV-20-02 - Cannabis Storefront Retail Ordinance

APPLICANT: County of Trinity

REPORT BY: Interim Director, Lisa Lozier / Division Director – Cannabis, Sean Connell

LOCATION: Applicable County Wide

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this item is to seek a recommendation from the Planning Commission to the Board of Supervisors regarding the adoption of an ordinance establishing a Cannabis Storefront Retail Ordinance (Attachment 1).

BACKGROUND:

On June 11, July 9, July 23, and August 7, 2020 the Planning Commission held public hearings to receive public input and provide guidance to staff regarding Cannabis Storefront Retail regulations. The staff report from the June 11, 2020 meeting as well as Memorandums and Public Comment from the above-mentioned meetings are included in Attachment 3. For convenience a summary of received public comments are provided for your review:

- Of the 36 comments received June 11, the large majority request that the establishment of a “cultivation opt out” should extend to all forms of the industry within the Lewiston area. Additionally, many comments requested there be a capacity identified for the whole county, siting the existence of one (1) pharmacy store to serve the whole County.
- The July 17 and 23rd meeting received a total of three (3) written comments. These comments provided the same requests to keep retail sales out of Lewiston Opt-Out area, to limit the number of cannabis retail sales, and to increase the setback to churches and school to 100 ft. Also, staff was provided with information from National Institute on Drug Abuse, Canadian Pediatric Society report on “*Cannabis and Canada’s children and youth*”
- The written comments, while individually representing their own particular viewpoints, have provided multiple statements to provide protection of existing Lewiston Opt-Out areas from any form of cannabis industry, to limit the total number of cannabis retailers, and to increase setbacks to 1000 feet from school, churches, and parks to protect the sensitive nature of the small community.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed Cannabis Storefront Retail Ordinance provides regulations and control over the sale of Cannabis and Cannabis products.

"Storefront Retail" means a licensed retailer selling adult-use recreational cannabis or cannabis

products to the end user or customer. A Cannabis Storefront Retailer does not include the following uses; (1) a clinic pursuant to Chapter 1 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code; (2) a residential care facility for the elderly licensed pursuant to Chapter 3.2 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code; and (3) a residential hospice or a home health agency licensed pursuant to Chapter 8 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code.

It is the purpose and intent of this Chapter to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents and businesses within Trinity County and comply with state law and federal guidelines and establish a strong and effective regulatory and enforcement system with regard to Cannabis that addresses threats to public safety, health and other law enforcement interests through robust controls and procedures that are effective in practice.

ZONING CODE COMPLIANCE:

Storefront Retail Premises are limited to three “allowable Zone Districts” with the current Trinity County Zoning Ordinance as follows: Highway Commercial (HC), Retail Commercial (C-1), and General Commercial (C-2). Cannabis Storefront Retail premises located on a parcel that has a zoning overlay district of “Special Treatment” will require the applicant to apply for review and approval from the appropriate review and approval from the appropriate architectural review and preservation committee as designated in Trinity County Zoning Ordinance Section 17.29C.040. If the Cannabis Storefront Retail premises is located on a parcel that has a zoning overlay of “Scenic Vista” then the applicant must submit, with associated separate fees, a Director’s Use Permit application for review and approval.

Existing structures proposed to be used for the commercial for Storefront Retail premise will be required to meet and be consistent with the development standard of the primary zone district for setback, land scape, parking standards and other standards as may be required in the primary zone district. Proposed Cannabis Storefront Retail details for the interior occupation, tenant improvements and design standards are outlined in proposed code section 17.43H.050 Application Requirements

GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY:

The three proposed Zone Districts, Highway Commercial, (HC) Retail Commercial(C-1) and General Commercial (C-2) proposed for the establishment of Cannabis Storefront Retail businesses are consistent with the Commercial (C) General Plan land use designation as discussed in the General Plan Land Use Element. Commercial (C) Compatible with all General Plan Land Use destinations as indicated in the matrix (page 19 Land Use Element) provided in the General Plan and Titled “General Plan Designations and Allowable Zoning Districts”.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:

Since the project is subject to discretionary review by the County Planning Commission and further review and adoption by the Board of Supervisors a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination must be adopted as part of the approval. The project as proposed qualifies for 15061(b)(3) the general exemption that CEQA only applies to projects which have the potential to cause a significant effect on the environment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED:

For the most recent public notice, one comment has been received. (Attachment 4)

RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning Commission recommends that the Trinity County Board of Supervisors makes the following findings:

- a. The Trinity County Board of Supervisors finds the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by the common-sense exemption 15061(b)(3) which applies only to projects where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.
- b. Adopt the recommended findings listed in Resolution 2022-03; and
- c. Recommend the Trinity County Board of Supervisors introduce, waive the reading of, and adopt a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the County of Trinity to include Section 17.43H - Cannabis Storefront Retail Ordinance, identified as Zone Amendment DEV-20-02

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Draft Ordinance
- 2) Resolution 2022-03
- 3) Staff Report, Memorandums and Public Comment from the June 11, July 9, July 23 and August 7, 2020 Planning Commission meetings.
- 4) Public comment 03.28.22

ORDINANCE NO. 315-XXX**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF TRINITY
ESTABLISHING TRINITY COUNTY CODE SECTION 17.43H
REGARDING CANNABIS STOREFRONT RETAIL**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Trinity, State of California, ordains as follows:

Section I: Findings and Declarations:

- A. The voters of the State of California approved Proposition 215 (codified as Health and Safety Code Section 11362.5 and entitled "The Compassionate Use Act of 1996"). The intent of Proposition 215 was to ensure that seriously ill Californians have the right to obtain and use Cannabis for medical purposes where that medical use is deemed appropriate and has been recommended by a physician, and to ensure that patients and their primary caregivers who obtain and use Cannabis for medical purposes upon the recommendation of a physician are not thereby subject to criminal prosecution or sanction.
- B. The State enacted SB 420 in 2004 known as the Medical Marijuana Program Act (codified as Health and Safety Code section 11362.7 et seq.) to clarify the scope of The Compassionate Use Act of 1996, facilitate the prompt identification of qualified patients and primary caregivers, avoid unnecessary arrest and prosecution of these individuals, provide needed guidance to law enforcement officers, promote uniform and consistent application of the Act and enhance the access of patients and caregivers to medical Cannabis through collective, cooperative cultivation projects and to allow local governing bodies to adopt and enforce rules and regulations consistent with SB 420.
- C. On September 11, 2015, the State enacted the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act (MMRSA) which took effect January 1, 2016, and which mandated a comprehensive state licensure and regulatory framework for cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, transportation, testing and dispensing of medical Cannabis on a commercial basis. MMRSA was amended by SB 837. On June 27, 2017, the State enacted the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act setting forth regulations for State licensure beginning in January, 2018.
- D. Previous landmark Cannabis legislation, including the Compassionate Use Act and the Medical Marijuana Program Act have precipitated a "green rush" with individuals moving to Trinity County to grow and manufacture Cannabis; with some seeking to capitalize on ambiguities in the law while others lack an awareness of community and environmental consciousness.
- E. Senate Bill 94 known as the Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA), established a comprehensive system to control and regulate the cultivation, distribution, transport, storage, manufacturing, processing and sale of both of the following: (1) Medicinal Cannabis and medicinal Cannabis products for patients with valid physician's recommendations; and (2) Adult-use Cannabis and adult-use Cannabis products for adults 21 years of age and over.
- F. In the absence of a formal regulatory framework, Cannabis businesses are less likely to learn of, or implement, guidelines that are protective of the public peace health,

- safety and the environment.
- G. It is the purpose and intent of this Chapter to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents and businesses within Trinity County and comply with state law and federal guidelines.
 - H. It is the intent of the County of Trinity to have a strong and effective regulatory and enforcement system with regard to Cannabis that addresses threats to public safety, health and other law enforcement interests through robust controls and procedures that are effective in practice.
 - I. This ordinance provides regulations and control over Cannabis, and prevents the potential introduction of dangerous products and practices within the County.

Section II: Cannabis Storefront Retail

The County hereby enacts the following as Trinity County Code Section 17.43G entitled Cannabis Storefront Retail.

17.43H.010 - Definitions

"Cannabis" and are used interchangeably and mean any plant of the genus Cannabis, as defined by section 11018 of the Health and Safety Code.

"Storefront Retail" means a licensed retailer selling adult-use recreational cannabis or cannabis products to the end user or customer. A Cannabis Storefront Retailer does not include the following uses; (1) a clinic pursuant to Chapter 1 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code; (2) a residential care facility for the elderly licensed pursuant to Chapter 3.2 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code; and (3) a residential hospice or a home health agency licensed pursuant to Chapter 8 of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code.

"School" means an institution of learning for minors, whether public or private, offering a regular course of instruction required by the California Education Code, or any licensed preschool or child day care facility. This definition includes a nursery school, kindergarten, elementary school, middle or junior high school, senior high school, or any special institution of education, excluding homeschools.

"Youth-oriented facility" means public park, and any establishment that advertises in a manner that identifies the establishment as catering to or providing services primarily intended for minors, or the individuals who regularly patronize, congregate or assemble at the establishment are predominantly minors.

17.43H.020 – Allowable Zoning

Storefront Retail premises are only allowed in the following zones where commercial activities are allowed:

- A. Highway Commercial (HC)
- B. If the Cannabis Storefront Retail premises is located on a parcel that has a zoning overlay of "Scenic Vista" then the applicant must also submit, with associated separate fees, a Director's Use Permit application for review and approval. Retail Commercial (C-1)
- C. General Commercial (C-2)

17.43H.030 – Regulations

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in or to conduct, or permit to be engaged in or conducted, in or upon his/her property within the County the operation of a Cannabis storefront retail unless he/she has first obtained and continues to maintain in full force and effect a valid Cannabis Storefront Retail License issued by the County for that property pursuant to this Chapter.
- B. Cannabis Storefront Retail Licenses are allowed subject to issuance and maintenance of the permits and entitlements set forth in this Chapter, and compliance with all other applicable County and state laws and regulations, and the issuance and maintenance of a valid and current State license.
- C. On-Site consumption of cannabis and cannabis products is permitted at the licensed Retail Dispensary as set forth pursuant to applicable state and local laws and regulations if all the following are met:
 - (1) Access to the area where cannabis consumption is allowed is restricted to persons twenty-one (21) years of age or older.
 - (2) Cannabis consumption is not visible from any public place or area restricted due to age.
 - (3) Consumption area shall be designated on the site plan, and clearly labeled on site. Smoking of cannabis goods shall be prohibited in any areas where smoking is prohibited by law
 - (3) Consumption of cannabis products on the retail premises shall be in a separate area from where sales transactions are conducted. Areas shall be partitioned and provided a separate age verification check prior to entry into the “consumption area”
 - (4) For retail dispensaries, sale or consumption of alcohol or tobacco is prohibited on the premises.

17.43H.040 – Application

- A. A Cannabis business shall register and obtain a Cannabis Storefront Retail License from Trinity County prior to operation. The Applicant shall pay a non-refundable fee in an amount established by the Trinity County Board of Supervisors.
- B. A copy of the Cannabis Storefront Retail License shall always be displayed in a place visible to the public.
- C. A Cannabis Storefront Retail License shall be valid for one (1) year, unless sooner revoked. No license granted herein shall confer any vested right to any person or business for more than the above-referenced period.
- D. A Cannabis Storefront Retail License shall not be issued to an individual or a business entity associated with an individual, who has violated California Health & Safety Code Section 11590 and its provisions.
- E. The Cannabis Storefront Retail License shall be issued to the specific person or entity listed on the License Application.
- F. A Cannabis Storefront Retail License is not transferable from person to person without completion of a new application.

17.43H.050 – Application Requirements

- A. The Planning Director or his/her designee will prepare Cannabis Storefront Retail License application forms and a related administrative policy. Each applicant interested in operating pursuant to this Chapter may submit an application together with a one-time non-refundable processing fee in an amount established by the Trinity County Board of Supervisors.
- B. The Planning Director or his/her designee shall determine whether each application received demonstrates compliance with the minimum requirements for a Cannabis Storefront Retail License. These requirements include:
 - 1. Application is filled out completely.
 - 2. Application fee is paid.
 - 3. The location indicated on the application meets the zoning criteria.
 - 4. A notarized signature from the property owner authorizing the location to be used for Cannabis Storefront Retail activity.
 - 5. Live Scan background check for the Business Owner(s)/Applicants(s) referenced on the application.
 - 6. There may be no change in the applicant/business owner from the one(s) listed on the Cannabis Storefront Retail License Application. The application must identify individual owner(s) as defined in the MCRSA 19320(b)(1. et. seq.) as may be amended.
 - 7. All other application documents required in the County’s application package instructions, the MCRSA, Proposition 64 and any other applicable regulations as they may be amended.
 - 8. Photographs of the exterior of the building including the entrances(s), exit(s), street frontage(s), and parking area(s).
 - 9. If the property is being rented, leased or purchased under contract, the lease agreement term and name of lessor or equivalent, shall be provided by a notarized signed affidavit of the property owner.
 - 10. The name and address of the applicant’s current Agent for Service of Process.
 - 11. A copy of the applicant’s Board of Equalization Seller’s Permit.
 - 12. A copy of the Cannabis Storefront Retail Operating Standards containing a statement dated and signed by the Business Owner stating that under penalty of perjury that they read, understand and shall ensure compliance with the aforementioned operating standards.
 - 13. A floorplan identifying ingress/egress, customer check in, waiting area, restroom facilities, retail product area, and product storage area.
 - 14. Provide a statement, signed by the applicant under penalty of perjury, that the information provided is complete, true, and accurate.
 - 15. Release of Trinity County from all liability associated with the Cannabis Storefront Retail business. Such a release includes indemnifying Trinity County for claims, damages and injuries that may arise as a result of the Cannabis Storefront Retail business.
 - 16. If the Cannabis Storefront Retail premises is located on a parcel that has a zoning overlay district of “Special Treatment” then the applicant must also submit, with

associated separate fees, a Director's Use Permit application for review and approval by the Architectural Review Committee to ensure compliance with Ord. No. 315-800, Res. No. 2013-20 and any other related Historical Legislation.

17.43H.060 Prohibited activities.

A. It is unlawful and shall constitute a public nuisance for anyone to own, establish, operate, use, or permit the establishment or operation of Cannabis Storefront Retail:

1. Without a valid local license required by this chapter; and
2. Without a valid State license required under California law; and
3. In violation of any local or State regulations.

17.43H.070 – Denial/Rescission of License:

- A. Applicant's application shall be denied or the issuance of a license rescinded if Trinity County becomes aware of any of the following:
1. The applicant has provided materially false documents or testimony.
 2. The operation as proposed if permitted, would not comply with all applicable laws including but not limited to the Building, Planning, Fire Safe and Health Codes of the County including the provisions of this Chapter and with all applicable laws including zoning and County ordinances.
- B. Applicant shall be given a minimum of seven (7) business days to correct any deficiencies prior to the issuance of a denial or rescission.
- C. Applicant or Licensee shall have the right to appeal any denials or rescissions as prescribed in Chapter 8.90.130 of Trinity County Code.

17.43H.080 – Inspection, Enforcement and Violations

The Planning Director, or his/her designee, may enter and inspect the location of any Cannabis Storefront Retail business during normal business hours to ensure compliance with this chapter. In addition, law enforcement may enter and inspect the location of any Cannabis business and the recordings and records maintained as required by this chapter.

Each day of operation shall constitute a separate violation of this section. Each and every violation of this chapter shall constitute a separate violation and shall be subject to all remedies and enforcement measures authorized by the Municipal Code. Additionally, any violation of this chapter shall constitute nuisance and violators shall be subject to injunctive relief, revocation of the business's Cannabis Storefront Retail License, disgorgement and payment to Trinity County of any and all monies unlawfully obtained, costs of abatement, costs of investigation, attorney fees and any other relief or remedy available at law or equity. The County may also pursue any and all remedies and actions available and applicable under local and state laws for any violations committed by the cannabis business and persons related or associated with the Cannabis business.

17.43H.090 – Fees

All Cannabis Storefront Retail business operations shall pay applicable fees approved by the Board of Supervisors, which shall include the following:

- A. Application Fee. The business applicant shall submit a non-refundable one-time fee to cover the cost of processing an application for the commercial Cannabis Retail Storefront License.

B. Annual License Fee. The Business Owner shall pay an annual license fee (“Annual License Fee”). The amount of the fee shall be set by the Trinity County Board of Supervisors by resolution and be supported by the estimated additional costs of enforcement and monitoring associated with the Cannabis Storefront Retail business operation. The Annual License Fee shall be due and payable prior to opening for business and thereafter on or before the anniversary date, and may be amended from time to time based upon actual costs.

17.43H.100 – Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court any competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The County hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each and every section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof not declared invalid or unconstitutional without regard to whether any portion of the ordinance would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

Section III: This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect thirty (30) days after its passage and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after passage of this ordinance, it shall be published once with the names of the members of the Board of Supervisors voting for and against the ordinance in the Trinity Journal, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Trinity State of California.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors held on the ____ day of _____, _____, and passed and enacted this ____ day of _____, _____ by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Trinity by motion, second (/), and the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None
RECUSE: None

DAN FRASIER, CHAIRMAN
Board of Supervisors
County of Trinity
State of California

ATTEST:

RICHARD KUHNS, Psy.D
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

Margaret E. Long, County Counsel

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2022-03**A RESOLUTION OF THE TRINITY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
RECOMMENDING THAT THE TRINITY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
APPROVE ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT ESTABLISHING TRINITY COUNTY
CODE SECTION 17.43H - CANNABIS STOREFRONT RETAIL**

WHEREAS, the voters of the State of California approved Proposition 215 (codified as Health and Safety Code Section 11362.5 and entitled "The Compassionate Use Act of 1996"). The intent of Proposition 215 was to ensure that seriously ill Californians have the right to obtain and use Cannabis for medical purposes where that medical use is deemed appropriate and has been recommended by a physician, and to ensure that patients and their primary caregivers who obtain and use Cannabis for medical purposes upon the recommendation of a physician are not thereby subject to criminal prosecution or sanction; and

WHEREAS, The State enacted SB 420 in 2004 known as the Medical Marijuana Program Act (codified as Health and Safety Code section 11362.7 et seq.) to clarify the scope of The Compassionate Use Act of 1996, facilitate the prompt identification of qualified patients and primary caregivers, avoid unnecessary arrest and prosecution of these individuals, provide needed guidance to law enforcement officers, promote uniform and consistent application of the Act and enhance the access of patients and caregivers to medical Cannabis through collective, cooperative cultivation projects and to allow local governing bodies to adopt and enforce rules and regulations consistent with SB 420; and

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2015, the State enacted the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act (MMRSA) which took effect January 1, 2016, and which mandated a comprehensive state licensure and regulatory framework for cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, transportation, testing and dispensing of medical Cannabis on a commercial basis. MMRSA was amended by SB 837. On June 27, 2017, the State enacted the Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act setting forth regulations for State licensure beginning in January, 2018; and

WHEREAS, senate Bill 94 known as the Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA), established a comprehensive system to control and regulate the cultivation, distribution, transport, storage, manufacturing, processing and sale of both of the following: (1) Medicinal Cannabis and medicinal Cannabis products for patients with valid physician's recommendations; and (2) Adult-use Cannabis and adult-use Cannabis products for adults 21 years of age and over; and

WHEREAS, In the absence of a formal regulatory framework, Cannabis businesses are less likely to learn of, or implement, guidelines that are protective of the public peace health, safety and the environment; and

WHEREAS, it is the purpose and intent of this Chapter to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents and businesses within Trinity County and comply with state law and federal guidelines; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the County of Trinity to have a strong and effective regulatory and enforcement system with regard to Cannabis that addresses threats to public safety, health and other law enforcement interests through robust controls and procedures that are effective in practice; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance provides regulations and control over Cannabis, and prevents the potential introduction of dangerous products and practices within the County; and

WHEREAS, said zone amendment was referred to various affected public and private agencies, County departments, and referral agencies for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, the Trinity County Planning Commission has received and reviewed the proposed zone amendment along with a report from the Planning Department; and

WHEREAS, the Trinity County Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 7, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Trinity County Planning Commission:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.
2. The Planning Commission has independently reviewed and considered the proposed zone amendment, together with all oral and written testimony received at the public hearing.
3. The Planning Commission recommends that the Trinity County Board of Supervisors makes the following findings:
 - a. The Trinity County Board of Supervisors finds the project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by the common-sense exemption 15061(b)(3) which applies only to projects where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment; and
 - b. Adopt the recommended findings listed in Resolution 2022-03; and
 - c. Recommend the Trinity County Board of Supervisors introduce, waive the reading of, and adopt a text amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the County of Trinity to include Section 17.43H - Cannabis Storefront Retail Ordinance, identified as Zone Amendment DEV-20-02

Resolution No. 2022-03
April 7, 2022

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of April 2022 by the Planning Commission of the County of Trinity by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

RECUSE:

WILLIAM SHARP, CHAIRMAN
Planning Commission
County of Trinity, State of California

ATTEST:

By: _____
LISA LOZIER
Secretary of the Planning Commission
County of Trinity, State of California




TRINITY COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
BUILDING ♦ PLANNING ♦ ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
P.O. BOX 2819, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093
PHONE (530) 623-1351 ♦ FAX (530) 623-1353

Kim Hunter, Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: Thursday, June 11, 2020

TO: Members of the Trinity County Planning Commission

FROM: Kim Hunter, Director of Planning and Building 

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 2 – Retail Storefront Ordinance (DEV-20-02)

A total of 36 comment letters have been received in the last 48 hours regarding this item which are attached for your review. Staff has not had time to fully review or consider the contents of these comments at this time and, as recommended in the staff report, that this item be continued to a later date.

E. Inmendsoff A

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:43 PM
To: Paul Hauser
Cc: Kim Hunter
Subject: RE: ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT - RETAIL CANNABIS STOREFRONT USES (DEV-20-02)

Hello Paul,

Thank you for taking the time to submit comments.
Lisa

From: Paul Hauser ·
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT - RETAIL CANNABIS STOREFRONT USES (DEV-20-02)

Please accept my comments below for Agenda Item 2 ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT - RETAIL CANNABIS STOREFRONT USES (DEV-20-02):

The ordinance needs opt out areas. Just like with cultivation there are areas where it is not appropriate to have retail cannabis sales. If an area has opted out of cultivation, it should also be opted out of retail sales.

There should be no retail allowed in the downtown historic district or in C-1 or C-2 zones. This is a retail activity that will deter tourists and should be as invisible as possible. It should be limited to heavy commercial zoning.

There should be a cap on the number of retail licenses - 1 retail location should be sufficient for Trinity County. We only have 1 drug store.

The 500 foot setback from churches and schools should be increased to 1000 feet for churches, schools and parks for the protection on kids.

Thank you for submitting my comments to the Planning Commission.

Paul Hauser

Weaverville, CA 96093

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: NO pot shops in Lewiston

From: Julia Mitchell <
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 11:55 AM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: NO pot shops in Lewiston

I'm a part time resident in Lewiston for the past 5 years and I do NOT want to see pot shops open up in Trinity county- especially Lewiston. We are a wonderful, small community that has already spoken out *numerous* times to keep pot out of our area. If an area has opted out of cultivation, it should also be opted out of retail sales!

I chose to buy a house in Trinity because of the amazing river, lakes, forest and wonderful small town living. I do not want to see it destroyed by pot. The environmental effects that pot growing has are extremely detrimental to our wonderful way of life in Trinity. There has been an increase in drug related crime and environmental destruction of our land and animals.

Save our forests, Save our rivers, Save our lakes, Save our wildlife, Save our environment! Please do not allow pot retail shops in Lewiston!!

Best-
Julia

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Retail Cannabis Ordinance

From: Susanne Risso
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Retail Cannabis Ordinance

Dear Trinity County Planning Commissioners,

My husband and I are residents of Lewiston and we would urge you to please keep all commercial cannabis activities out of all the Opt Out Areas! Residents shouldn't have to keep coming back to the PC and BOS every time a cannabis ordinance comes up. By keeping all commercial cannabis activities out of Opt Outs will save you time. You will not have to read all these emails and sit thru all the public comments from residents who oppose cannabis activities in their backyards. Please include in the Retail Sales Ordinance the exclusion of retail sales in Opt Out Areas.

We also encourage you to include in the ordinance no retail allowed in any historic district or in C-1 or C-2 zoning. The 500' setbacks from churches and schools should be increased to 1000' and should include parks for the protection of our children.

We understand that it is legal and that is OK, but there is a place for it. And in residential neighborhoods and near where children will congregate is not the appropriate place.

Thank you for your time,

Susanne Risso
Paul Baldwin

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:23 AM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Keep Lewiston & Weaverville Pot Shop free

From: Janet Castagnola <_ _ _>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:49 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Keep Lewiston & Weaverville Pot Shop free

Trinity County Planning Commission,

I would like to have my voice heard at your meeting. As a visitor to Lewiston and Weaverville, I would hate to see it become like the bigger cities we need a break from. We come to these beautiful places for the kayaking, lakes, river and fishing. The small town feel is part of the attraction. If pot shops become part of the retail shops, I will have to find new places to visit, and spend my money at. I know quite a few friends of mine that feel the same way.

Please don't give into the retail pot crowd! That is not what you want your towns to be known for. They will become ghost towns.

Thank you,
Janet Castagnola

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:55 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Retail Cannabis

-----Original Message-----

From: White <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Retail Cannabis

Retail cannabis sales should only be allowed on a very limited basis in Trinity County, one store per community or maybe via a maximum of 5 or 6 for the whole county. We do not need to allow a wild stampede as was done with cultivation.

In addition, sales should be limited to only properties zoned for commercial activity. Since it is a retail business, it should be limited to zones designed to allow retail sales. Under no circumstances should it be allowed on properties zoned for other non-retail uses (residential, recreation, forestry, etc.). Keep it out of the places where our residents live. We do not allow alcohol to be sold by the guy in the house next door. Same should hold for cannabis.

Scott White

From: [Lisa Lozler](#)
To: [Kim Hunter](#)
Subject: FW: Retail Cannabis Stores
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:54:59 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Sue & Gene Dangel <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:56 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Retail Cannabis Stores

To whom it may concern,

My name is Gene Dangel. We reside in Walnut Creek, California but have been vacationing and visiting friends in Trinity County since 1974. Our children who are now adults enjoyed, and continue to enjoy all of the beautiful things that make the area so special. We bring our nine and eleven year old grand daughters to initiate them in the family tradition.

Several years ago when we were made aware the Planning Commission was considering to allow cannabis cultivation in Lewiston, I communicated my opposition to that proposal. I was pleased to later learn that the Planning Commission saw the wisdom in amending that proposal which allowed Lewiston to become an "opt out area" for cannabis cultivation activities.

As you might imagine, it was disturbing to be notified that the Planning Commission is now considering a zoning change that will open the door to retail cannabis sales in Trinity County. I do acknowledge that cannabis is legal in the State of California and that there are communities where retail cannabis outlets may be appropriate. I strongly suggest that if the decision is to allow retail cannabis sales in Trinity County, that you once again see the wisdom in preventing retail sales of cannabis in those areas, such as Lewiston, that currently fall under the "opt out" provision.

Our family has many years of boating, camping, fishing, and hiking, in some of the most beautiful scenery in Northern California. Like with the previous cultivation proposal, we see no upside to allowing retail sales of cannabis in smaller communities that have chosen to "opt out". As a visitor to the area I am opposed to retail cannabis sales. If I were a resident, I would be vehemently opposed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Gene Dangel & Family
Walnut Creek, California

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:56 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Cannabis

From: Bob Brodnik <
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:16 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Cannabis

I'm a retired San Francisco Police Inspector. My wife and I have a home in Lewiston. I was in the Narcotics Bureau for nine years and detailed to the Drug Enforcement Administration for two years. If you let Cannabis come to Trinity expect crime! Nothing more to say. Please turn down this idea.

Respectfully submitted;
Bob & Sharon Brodnik

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:56 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Opt out cannabis sales in Lewiston

From: mizmoose48 <mizmoose48@trinitycounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:24 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Opt out cannabis sales in Lewiston

Please do not allow pot sales in our opt out areas. I have lived here for 20 years and do not want to see our wonderful town allowing this. Dont we have enough crime and problems in our state? Our enforcement people have enough to do without added problems. People here are older and do not need the sales in our lives. Please stop this insidious issue from happening. It only hurts young people now. Thank u. Sandy Rechel

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 4:54 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Cannibus in Lewiston

From: mizmort
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:19 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Cannibus in Lewiston

We do not need or want any retail sales of cannibus in Lewiston. This is a quaint little historic town, with active churches and schools. Please keep this OUT.

PAM and Bob Mordecai

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:50 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: marijuana sale opt out and retail stores

From: Teri Robertson <
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:31 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: marijuana sale opt out and retail stores

Good afternoon,

Although I live in San Diego, I do visit Trinity County frequently. I enjoy the river, the mountains, and the open air. I always visit local merchants, both to support the Trinity County businesses and for my own enjoyment.

I understand that the Planning Commission is about to consider a zoning change that would allow retail cannabis in Trinity County. I truly hope this change does not occur. I've visited areas that do allow retail stores, and frankly, haven't enjoyed the experience. The areas I've visited that have undergone such a change – really did change, and not in a pleasant way.

I truly believe that passing the zoning change will impact the frequency of visitors to the area who will spend their tourist dollars. I think if you do this, and look back in as little as three years, you will regret the decision.

The area has already opted out of cultivation. I hope you are consistent in your addressing the retail cannabis issue. Thank you,

Teri Robertson

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Keep retail stores out of our town

-----Original Message-----

From: Gale & Theresa <gale@trinitycounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:30 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Keep retail stores out of our town

Please look at the damage growing Marijuana has done to Trinity County. Contamination to rivers and streams, uncontrolled illegal grows, more homeless that are attracted to such industry.

Please keep out retail sales We live in Lewiston which is supposed to be an opt area by popular demand, yet still a number of growers are still growing in the opt out zone.

It appears the growers and sellers are getting just about any rezoning or consideration they want no mater what the long time residents think.

PLEASE no on retails sales or rezoning at least until the rest of the illegal operations are taken care of and opt out areas are protected.

Look at the added cost the marijuana industry has given Trinity County already.

Thank you for your time

Gale & Theresa Ickes (

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:45 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Cannabis stores

From: Pamela Johnson
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:12 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Cannabis stores

As a former 13 year resident of Trinity County (Lewiston), and a former non uniformed Law enforcement employee at CHP under the leadership of your current Sheriff, Tim Saxon, I am not in favor of any drugs, whether being grown or manufactured, being available for purchase at a store. As far as I know, there is already a drug problem in and around Trinity County and I would hate to see it become worse than it is. The only drugs I advocate for are the ones legally prescribed by a legitimate, honest physician. I consider Trinity County God's country, and it is too beautiful to ruin.

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:45 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Cannabis sales in Lewiston

-----Original Message-----

From: Robert Karch <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:19 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Cc: River Rock Gardens Katie Quinn <katie@riverrockgardens.com>
Subject: Cannabis sales in Lewiston

Dear Sir and/or Madam,

As a person who grew up in Trinity County (Lewiston and Hayfork) I have retained a love for this beautiful area. I love to return each year to Lewiston to relax, fish and meet with my old Trinity friends. I have noticed in the past few years the proliferation of marijuana growing especially in the Hayfork and Lewiston areas. While it may seem that legal cannabis cultivation can add to the economy of an economically depressed county. I caution you to not be fooled into thinking that more pot cultivation and/or dispensaries will improve the quality of life of people who reside in this beautiful county. It won't. I live in Butte County where cultivation of marijuana has been common for years. With this long experience Butte County leaders have decided to limit the cultivation to recreational uses and have not allowed dispensaries. This has been good for the county I believe. Most importantly, while I am not against personal marijuana, use, we are only beginning to discover the long term effects of this drug and it's possible links to depression and psychosis. Only time will tell. In the mean time it is evident that coexisting with marijuana grows is clearly problematic for neighboring residents. Please, I encourage the powers that be to not rush into expanding marijuana grows and allowing dispensaries. I encourage all interested parties to watch the Netflix documentary "Murder Mountain" for an enlightening story of the county to your Northwest: Humboldt.

Sincerely,

Robert Karch (1964 TCHS alumni)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lisa Lozier](#)
To: [Kim Hunter](#)
Subject: FW: Subject: Hearing by Trinity Planning commission to consider zoning change : retail cannabis in Trinity County June 11, 2020
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:45:32 PM

From: Daniel Foley <Daniel.Foley@trinitycounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:28 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Cc: [Lisa Lozier](#); [Kim Hunter](#); [Trinity Planning Commission](#)
San
Ritc
Mic
Bob

Subject: Subject: Hearing by Trinity Planning commission to consider zoning change : retail cannabis in Trinity County June 11, 2020

Trinity County Planning Commission: Please consider our input, as we are unable to attend the meeting of July 11, 2020.

We own property and have been living part time in Lewiston for the past 18 years. We selected Lewiston due to the responsible community, beauty, safety and recreational opportunities. Our children, grandchildren and numerous friends also love the Lewiston area.

We are strong supporters of the current OPT-Out policy for growing and selling of all marijuana products in the Lewiston OPT-OUT Zone. We are vehemently opposed to any consideration of changing the zoning that would allow retail selling, growing, processing of any cannabis (marijuana) products in the Lewiston OPT-OUT zone in Lewiston, California.

Furthemore, we believe:

The ordinance needs opt out areas. Just like with cultivation there are areas where it is not appropriate to have retail cannabis sales. If an area has opted out of cultivation, it should also be opted out of retail sales.

There should be no retail allowed in the downtown historic district or in C-1 or C-2 zones. This is a retail activity that will deter tourists and should be as invisible as possible. It should be limited to heavy commercial zoning.

There should be a cap on the number of retail licenses - 1 retail location should be sufficient for Trinity County. We only have 1 drug store.

The 500 foot setback from churches and schools should be increased to 1000 feet for churches, schools and parks for the protection of children.

Respectfully,

Daniel J. Foley & Joanne R. Foley

;

Lewiston, California 96052

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 8:23 AM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Comments on Cannabis

From: Karen Jernigan <KJernigan@trinitycounty.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 8:05 AM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Comments on Cannabis

To: Planning Commissioners of Trinity County

From: Karen Vanderwall Jernigan, KJernigan@trinitycounty.org

RE: Retail cannabis stores

Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020

I have heard that you are facing a decision about whether to allow retail cannabis sales in Trinity County and I want to encourage you to not go down that path.

I lived in Trinity County, in Lewiston, for 10 years and have been returning often as a visitor for 40 years. During that time I've been associated with your tourism industry and have watched as the influence of cannabis use and cultivation has negatively affected how people view your county. It should be seen as one of the most beautiful places in the world yet there is an element of fear that comes from encountering those associated with using and illegally growing cannabis.

A retail storefront is a billboard to promote the use of cannabis, a product that though legalized in California is still illegal federally. The product is controversial just as smoking and vaping are controversial. Warning labels are placed on cigarettes because of health concerns. Do you really want this to be what you are known for? Is the money from taxation going to offset the harm you will do by incurring more law enforcement expense to regulate this? Will it make people want to come to Trinity County or keep them away?

We appreciate that most of the Lewiston area is considered an “opt out” where commercial cannabis cannot be grown. Retail cannabis stores should certainly be kept out of any of the “opt out” areas, particularly the historic districts.

I encourage you to think about the thousands of people who want to enjoy and appreciate your county instead of catering to an industry of questionable ethics.

--

Karen Jernigan,

{

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: No retail cannabis in Lewiston!

From: Jeff Hutchinson <
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:12 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: No retail cannabis in Lewiston!

Hello,

I am a frequent visitor to Lewiston and Trinity County. I really do not want to see retail cannabis stores in the Lewiston Community or in any of the historic parts of Trinity County. The ordinance needs to NOT allow retail stores in opt out areas. If an area has opted out of cultivation, it should also be opted out of retail sales.

Thank you
Jeff Hutchinson

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Pot shops in Lewiston

-----Original Message-----

From: H C Kemper <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Pot shops in Lewiston

My name is Henry Kemper. I and my wife Dixie own a second home in the Lewiston area. We live primarily in Sonoma County. We do not want to see a retail pot shop in our adopted town of Lewiston. I hope that you will consider the wishes of the many people in our town that want to maintain the historical charm of our community. Thank you Henry Kemper

Sent from my iPhone

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Cannabis in Lewiston

-----Original Message-----

From: Peggy Prestidge <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:54 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Cannabis in Lewiston

To Whom It May Concern

We do not live in your area but instead live in a metropolitan area outside of California. We frequently visit Lewiston mainly to experience and enjoy the calm peaceful open space. We love the beautiful clean river and lakes, the opportunity to see and hear birds and other wildlife in their natural setting. We appreciate the relaxed friendly feeling we experience every time we visit. We just heard the county is considering allowing not just the cultivation of more cannabis but also permitting retail locations for the sale of recreational cannabis. This is very distressing to us. Redding is a short drive away with plenty of retail opportunities. Please don't allow this change to Lewiston or Trinity County. We are sure many other visitors to your area feel the same way we do. We come to your area for the beautiful scenery but also for the relaxed and rural atmosphere. Please don't destroy this by allowing the retail sale of cannabis in Trinity county.

Sincerely

Dennis and Peggy Prestidge
Portland, Oregon
Sent from my iPhone

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 2:43 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: I am opposed to having commercial cannabis stores in Trinity County

From: Bob Logan
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:52 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: I am opposed to having commercial cannabis stores in Trinity County

For over 30 years I have been involved in the Trinity County community. I love the beauty, cleanliness, diversity and people of the county. Please listen to your constituents when they seek to keep the quality of life as it has been by not allowing cannabis Retailers in.

Robert Logan

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:45 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Zoning changes meeting June 11, 2020

-----Original Message-----

From: Phil Fay
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:22 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Zoning changes meeting June 11, 2020

I am voicing opposition to any zoning changes that would allow retail stores selling Cannabis in the Lewiston community. I am a frequent visitor to Trinity County and in particular Lewiston. Not only frequent, but long time. My family has been frequenting Trinity County since 1975. We particularly have enjoyed the rivers and the friendly Lewiston Community. Where the areas have opted out of cultivation, they should also be opted out of retail sales. I thank you and my family thanks you. Phil Fay.

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:45 AM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Keep Cannabis Out of Lewiston (and Trinity County!)

From: LAUREL EDWARDS <
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 6:47 AM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Keep Cannabis Out of Lewiston (and Trinity County!)

Dear Planning Commission,

Please do not allow cannabis retail businesses in Lewiston! It would wreck the small town family-friendly aspects that we now have. As I drive through Oregon and Washington, I have noticed the cannabis retail businesses are on busy streets with many commercial stores surrounding it. We don't have that in Lewiston, nor do we want it. In addition, the stores I've seen have darkened windows, obnoxious neon light signs, and exteriors with bars on the windows and doors. These, too, do not fit in with the welcoming sign at the entrance to Lewiston, which says "Welcome to Lewiston: Gateway to the Trinity's Lakes and Mountains."

As it stands, now, there are too many commercial grows here, in or too close to areas that are zoned residential. I'm wondering how that happened. As a long-time (30+ years) resident and employee in the town of Lewiston I've seen many negatives because of the increased cultivation allowed in recent years. As an employee of Lewiston Elementary School, working with young children, I've noticed that the number of learning problems exhibited in children is disproportionately larger among those whose families are in the cannabis business, compared to those whose parents work in other businesses. Recent research proves that the use of cannabis alters brain development. We must not support this type of business!

I would like to invite you, individually, or as a group, to let me lead you on a tour of Lewiston and show you the town that my husband and I thought we would spend the rest of our days in. I will show you how it has changed over the years and how commercial cultivations have contributed to the poverty we see in our school and the destitution that our families with young children are faced with. Please stop this cannabis madness now! Do not promote unhealthy lifestyles, learning difficulties, and economic poverty by allowing retail cannabis to occur in Lewiston, or anywhere in Trinity County.

Sincerely,
Laurel Edwards

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:45 AM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Retail Cannabis

From: STEVE EDWARDS
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:37 AM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Retail Cannabis

Dear Planning Commission:

We need to rethink land use and commercial businesses that deal with cannabis grows and distribution in Trinity County. I feel there has been no advantage in this county by the legalization and/or distribution of cannabis. It has created more problems than our county has been able to regulate and control. I don't think it will help tourism in our county; in fact, it can be a deterrent to tourism. A no vote that does not allow retail of cannabis is a vote for the good of all..

Sincerely,
Steve Edwards

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 1:39 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Zoning Change

From: Sherida Bush
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 1:36 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Zoning Change

Dear Commissioners:

My family and I are frequent visitors to Trinity County and enjoy its natural beauty and small towns. I love the Lewiston area in particular, where a friend resides.

I oppose a zoning change to allow retail cannabis, as I believe it would change the character of your communities. Or at least the zoning change should allow areas to opt out of both retail and cultivation if the will of the community is to do so.

Please consider the income visitors bring to your beautiful county before voting for this ordinance. The income to communities from cannabis has been shown to fall far short of expectations, and its impact on county tourism could be much more significant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Sherida Bush

Sherida Bush
Martinez, CA

!

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:23 AM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Cannabis retail use and activity

From: Cynthia Luttrell
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 6:40 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Cannabis retail use and activity

In light of the fact that Lewiston has opted-out of cannabis activity, I strongly urge the planning commission to also opt out of retail connected activity as well.

Sincerely a Lewiston resident-

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:45 AM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Retail Cannabis

From: STEVE EDWARDS <
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:37 AM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Retail Cannabis

Dear Planning Commission:

We need to rethink land use and commercial businesses that deal with cannabis grows and distribution in Trinity County. I feel there has been no advantage in this county by the legalization and/or distribution of cannabis. It has created more problems than our county has been able to regulate and control. I don't think it will help tourism in our county; in fact, it can be a deterrent to tourism. A no vote that does not allow retail of cannabis is a vote for the good of all..

Sincerely,
Steve Edwards

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:27 AM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Public Comments on cannabis retail sales

From: Trent Tuthill
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 8:53 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Public Comments on cannabis retail sales

The following comments are provided for the planning commission to consider:

- The ordinance needs opt out areas. Just like with cultivation there are areas where it is not appropriate to have retail cannabis sales. If an area has opted out of cultivation, it should also be opted out of retail sales.
- There should be no retail allowed in the downtown historic district or in C-1 or C-2 zones. This is a retail activity that will deter tourists and should be as invisible as possible. It should be limited to heavy commercial zoning.
- There should be a cap on the number of retail licenses - 1 retail location should be sufficient for Trinity County. We only have 1 drug store.
- The 500 foot setback from churches and schools should be increased to 1000 feet for churches, schools and parks for the protection on kids.

Thank you for taking my concerns and suggestions into consideration on this important topic.

Thanks
Trent and Andrea Tuthill

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:28 AM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: RETAIL CANNABIS SALES in Trinity County - Proposed Ordinance

From: Bruce & Marilee Taylor
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 10:52 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: RETAIL CANNABIS SALES in Trinity County - Proposed Ordinance

Members of the Trinity County Planning Commission:

The ordinance referenced above to be considered tonight must have OPT OUT areas. IF there are areas where residents have created OPT OUT CULTIVATION zones...it is NOT APPROPRIATE to have RETAIL CANNABIS SALES in these areas. The Weaverville Downtown Historic area ...along route 299...is NO place for retail cannabis sales. NONE either should be allowed in C-1 or C-2 zones!

CAP on the # of retail licenses: ONE location, located miles AWAY from the Weaverville Business District centers (AND schools, churches and parks), should be sufficient for any retail sales location. THIS IS A COUNTY OF BARELY OVER 13,000 residents, after all.

Trinity County is NOT Las Vegas, nor any other glitzy Mecca for tourists, and this type of ersatz 'business' entity must be necessarily OFF center, in a location 'off the beaten path'...far from major business districts, hospitals. SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, and PARKS should be OFF LIMITS for the protection of Trinity County YOUTH and ALL citizens (and travelers) who abhor this type of addiction/use or practice,...whether for personal, social or 'therapeutic' practices.

Trinity County relies on 'real' recreationalists, and those who truly appreciate the beauty of this county for tourist visits and dollars;.. and families/individuals do not wish to be faced with Recreational Drug Sales/Use/Users in any capacity. 'Dirty Linen'..no matter how state voters have classified its existence..., NEVER needs to be flaunted. This practice belongs on the OTHER SIDE of town....wherever that might be.

We taxpayers, who chose to retire here and have built our 'dream homes' here,...pay thousands of dollars each year for property taxes;..and get NO 'county-wide" Sheriff Dept. support for robberies in our neighborhoods,...for which we have supplied photos and ID's of the thieves. The 'good Ole Boy System' prevails, and we solid citizens and taxpayers are swept under the Emerald Curtain.

Please get REAL: setbacks from schools, churches and parks MUST be increased to 1000 feet. ERR on the side of Right and Common Sense ,and relegate this 'industry' to the "Other Side of Town" (wherever that might be). WE do not deserve to have to put up with the SMELL, the robberies and the 'attractive nuisance' this 'industry' attracts;...and there is SO Much of this, that the Sheriff's Dept. does not address,...for every kind of excuse,... that Inquiring Minds and Tax Paying Citizens must ask: WHAT are we getting for our tax dollars in Trinity County???? 350' setback exemptions: Please...consider your taxpaying base...on the whole!

There are SO MANY illegal pot grows on Fountain Ranch Road alone,...that this whole pompous discussion is laughable. YOU members of the Commission, are sworn to uphold the rights of all citizens and the regs and zoning laws of this state and county.

Thank you for your service, members of the Commission; and for rational and intelligent regulations to zone an 'ersatz industry' to locations where it belongs.

At our age, we cease to have patience with 'users' of any kind. WE pay for all their exigencies.... through one Federal, State, County fund or another.

In the Best Interests of the Citizenry of Trinity County,
Marilee and Bruce Taylor

Salyer, CA (the forgotten sector of this fine county)

From: [Lisa Lozier](#)
To: [Kim Hunter](#)
Subject: FW: Keep Cannabis Out of Lewiston (and Trinity County!)
Date: Thursday, June 11, 2020 7:44:48 AM

From: LAUREL EDWARDS <
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 6:47 AM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Keep Cannabis Out of Lewiston (and Trinity County!)

Dear Planning Commission,

Please do not allow cannabis retail businesses in Lewiston! It would wreck the small town family-friendly aspects that we now have. As I drive through Oregon and Washington, I have noticed the cannabis retail businesses are on busy streets with many commercial stores surrounding it. We don't have that in Lewiston, nor do we want it. In addition, the stores I've seen have darkened windows, obnoxious neon light signs, and exteriors with bars on the windows and doors. These, too, do not fit in with the welcoming sign at the entrance to Lewiston, which says "Welcome to Lewiston: Gateway to the Trinity's Lakes and Mountains."

As it stands, now, there are too many commercial grows here, in or too close to areas that are zoned residential. I'm wondering how that happened. As a long-time (30+ years) resident and employee in the town of Lewiston I've seen many negatives because of the increased cultivation allowed in recent years. As an employee of Lewiston Elementary School, working with young children, I've noticed that the number of learning problems exhibited in children is disproportionately larger among those whose families are in the cannabis business, compared to those whose parents work in other businesses. Recent research proves that the use of cannabis alters brain development. We must not support this type of business!

I would like to invite you, individually, or as a group, to let me lead you on a tour of Lewiston and show you the town that my husband and I thought we would spend the rest of our days in. I will show you how it has changed over the years and how commercial cultivations have contributed to the poverty we see in our school and the destitution that our families with young children are faced with. Please stop this cannabis madness now! Do not promote unhealthy lifestyles, learning difficulties, and economic poverty by allowing retail cannabis to occur in Lewiston, or anywhere in Trinity County.

Sincerely,
Laurel Edwards

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Cannabis Meeting 6/11/20 7 PM -- Retail Cannabis Sales In Trinity County

From: Joyce Wilhite < >
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Cannabis Meeting 6/11/20 7 PM -- Retail Cannabis Sales In Trinity County

To The: Trinity County Planning Commission

Lewiston opted out of commercial cannabis grows – we want to opt out of all Commercial Cannabis activity, including retail cannabis sales. The ordinance needs to not allow retail stores in opt out areas. If an area has opted out of cultivation, it should also be opted out of retail sales and all commercial cannabis activities.

There should be no retail allowed in the downtown historic district or in C-1 or C-2 zones.

The 500 foot setback from churches and schools should be increased to 1000 feet for churches, schools and parks for the protection of kids.

We don't need retail cannabis sales in Trinity County!!

Lewiston, fortunately, was able to opt out of commercial cannabis growing. We certainly don't want cannabis sold in a store on our streets.

We have family and friends that enjoy coming to Lewiston to enjoy the fresh air and beautiful pristine surrounds. They will not visit and spend their money in our beautiful town if they have to smell and see cannabis stores.

Stop allowing POT GROWERS to make our County's Decisions, Rules and Regulations!!

Regards,
Gerald & Joyce Wilhite
Property Owners and Tax Payers
in Trinity County Since 1987

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Lewiston OPT OUT

From: Becky Duncan
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Lewiston OPT OUT

As a many-years-property owner/resident of Lewiston, I see Lewiston's future as a lovely community again under threaten from the ubiquitous cannabis industry.

I do not want Commercial Cannabis business in our town or outlying areas. I request an increase to 1000 foot setback near schools & churches. Having a neighboring property owner who has illegal growing and I'm sure drug production (a young girl I know used to go there to buy drugs), makes my awareness acute.

I sent in a complaint probably one or two years ago, through the county complaint site re: a large grow on the mountain west of the Lewiston valley. The property is lit up like a landing field each night. It is clear there are lights in their temporary hoop houses, which from my reading of the regs, is illegal. *"No mechanical, electrical or plumbing devices used in or around the hoop-house. 3. Extension cords are NOT allowed. 4. Artificial lights are NOT allowed in the hoop-house"*.

My complaint had the parcel number or close to it. There are at least 4 large hoop houses reflecting the sun during the day and bright "city lights" at night. It is obvious. Nothing changed after my complaint.

As noted in the paper recently, often the growers push for more, threatening lawsuits to get more, more, more. Similar to a baby whining when it does not get its way.

I'm thankful Kim Hunter is going by the regs.

Thank you.

Becky Duncan
Lewiston CA

What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset. ~ Crowfoot

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Lewiston Opt OUT

From: Jennilea Brookins <Jennilea.Brookins@trinitycounty.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 11:53 AM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Lewiston Opt OUT

Trinity County Planning Commissioners,

Lewiston opted out of commercial cannabis grows – we want to opt out of all Commercial Cannabis activity, including retail cannabis sales. The ordinance needs to not allow retail stores in opt out areas. If an area has opted out of cultivation, it should also be opted out of retail sales and all commercial cannabis activities.

There should be no retail allowed in the downtown historic district or in C-1 or C-2 zones.

The 500 foot setback from churches and schools should be increased to 1000 feet for churches, schools and parks for the protection of kids.

Not every corner of our county needs to be taken over by the Cannabis. Please help keep parts of our county open for people to be able to choose to live and visit in an area of our amazing county without being impacted by the smell, sight, traffic and environment that comes hand and hand with commercial Cannabis.

Thank you,

Jenni Brookins

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Retail sales planning commission meeting 6/11/2020

From: steve rhodehouse <
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 9:06 AM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Fwd: Retail sales planning commission meeting 6/11/2020

Sent from my iPad

Subject: Retail sales planning commission meeting 6/11/2020

Hello all , we hope this finds you all in great health and spirit. Surely you are.
As we wait with patient endurance for our OPT OUT to be finalized for Rush Creek Estates and surrounding hills, similar concerns are also relative to retail cannabis in Trinity , not being allowed just anywhere.

If there is to be retail sales ,an ordinance needs include opt out areas as well, just like cultivation, it's not appropriate anywhere and everywhere. If an area is opted out of cultivation it should also apply to retail sales. We concur with Exclusion in hi density populated areas, downtown historic district and C1 and C2 zones. That would be a negative effect on tourists, so if it's deemed necessary it should be limited to heavy commercial and invisible as much as possible.

The idea we have one pharmacy should also be sufficient for retail sales. One.
The current setback should also be doubled to 1000' from churches, schools and parks for the protection of children and community members. Especially in light of the May 3rd violent home invasion in Hayfork.

Thank you for your consideration

Steve Rhodehouse
Carolyn Fencil

Sent from my iPad

UNDERWOOD LAW OFFICES P.C.

Weaverville Office:
P.O. Box 2428
Weaverville, CA 96093
Telephone: (530) 623-2200

James M. Underwood

Redding Office:
1274 Court Street
Redding, CA 96001
Telephone (530) 276-8246

DELIVERED VIA E-MAIL & US MAIL

Trinity County Planning Commission
C/o Kim Hunter, Director
Trinity County Planning Department
P. O. Box 2819/61 Airport Road
Weaverville, California 96093

Re: Proposed Cannabis Storefront Retail Sales Ordinance

Dear Planning Commissioners:

My office represents Trinity Action Association ("TAA"). As you may know, TAA is a local organization with County-wide membership, whose stated mission is to, among other things, promote and support economic development of all legal and environmentally-responsible industries, including the cannabis industry, in an orderly manner and in accordance with sound planning principles, including compatibility with the land use priorities of existing neighborhoods.

With the foregoing objectives in mind, TAA is submitting these written comments concerning the proposed cannabis storefront retail ordinance to be considered by your Commission at its meeting of June 11th, 2020.

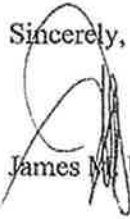
1. Opt-Out Areas - The proposed ordinance includes no opt-out out areas, and should. Just like with cultivation there are areas where it is not appropriate to have highly visible retail cannabis sales. If an area has opted out of cultivation, it should also be opted out of retail sales. This would leave ample locations throughout the county for storefront retail cannabis sale activities.
2. Limitations in Specified Zoning Districts - There should be no retail allowed in the Downtown Historic District in Weaverville, nor in C-1 or C-2 zones. This is a particular retail activity that will likely deter tourism and should therefore be limited in location so as not to have a negative impact on Trinity County's important tourism economy. Some TAA members, at the very least, are advocating for an ordinance change to require applications for such activities within the herein referenced districts are made subject to a conditional use permit to be approved by the Commission and made appealable to the Board of Supervisors.
3. Larger Setbacks from Sensitive Adjoining Uses – The proposed 500 foot setback from churches and schools, and similar sensitive adjoining land-uses, should be increased to 1000 feet. There will be ample areas of proposed storefront retail cannabis sales, and the County should affirmatively limit proximity to sensitive neighboring uses, and particularly those involving children.

Letter to Trinity County Planning Commission
Re: Proposed Cannabis Storefront Retail Sales Ordinance
Date: June 11, 2020
Page 2 of 2

Some TAA members also think that a numerical cap on the maximum number of licenses to be issued for storefront retail cannabis sales makes sense. It is noteworthy that there is only one (1) drug store in all of Trinity County.

Thank you for considering the foregoing requests as your Commission considers public input and resulting recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Underwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "U".

James M. Underwood

Cc: Trinity Action Association

Kim Hunter

From: Sally Barrow <sbarrow@cityofweaverville.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:06 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: Re: FW: Comments regarding Retail Cannabis Storefront Ordinance

Will this work?

Thanks always

On Thu, Jun 11, 2020 at 4:05 PM Sally Barrow <sbarrow@cityofweaverville.com> wrote:
Comments regarding Retail Cannabis Ordinance

Because a provision for creating new opt-out areas was not included in the Commercial Cannabis Ordinance, my neighbors on Bear Creek Road, Rush Creek Estates and the neighborhoods near Trinity Dam Blvd. are engaged in an uphill battle to regain the right to determine what our residential neighborhoods should look like.

Please include an opt-out provision as you establish the ordinance controlling cannabis retail storefronts. Established businesses, representing enormous financial investment and untold hours of hard work, should have a right to object to a retail cannabis storefront in their area if they feel it would be detrimental to their business. Concerned citizens should also have a voice in individual locations being considered. Since the Historical District of Weaverville, C-1 and C-2 zoning areas depend on families and tourists for their success, these zones seem particularly unsuitable for the cannabis retail storefronts.

Thanks for considering this.

Sally Barrow

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Proposed Zoning change for retail cannabis stores in Trinity County

From: Bob Self <
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:12 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Proposed Zoning change for retail cannabis stores in Trinity County

We have been to Lewiston, Weaverville and other beautiful areas in Trinity County. The beauty of floating down the river, exploring the country roads, and enjoying the small towns is what makes these mountain areas so unique and special.

Lewiston where we have visited the most is an area that opted out of growing cannabis commercially. Since the residents didn't want commercial growing of cannabis, it doesn't make sense to allow retail stores to become part of the community setting.

Accordingly, we oppose this zoning change.

Carole and Bob Self
San Diego, California

Kim Hunter

From: Lisa Lozier
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 4:17 PM
To: Kim Hunter
Subject: FW: Retail sales of cannabis

-----Original Message-----

From: Dolores Howard <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2020 3:19 PM
To: Info.Planning <Info.Planning@trinitycounty.org>
Subject: Retail sales of cannabis

Ladies/gentlemen:

I am a long-time property owner in Trinity County and current resident in Lewiston. Many times in the past I have welcomed friends and relatives to my home for visits. I love living in a "clean" area and have been able to report to others that this is an area they can visit for outdoor recreation. I have hated the advent of cannabis growers and their stinky crops. I am thankful that Lewiston opted out.

Now these growers want retail sales of their dangerous product. Please help keep retail sales out of Lewiston and Weaverville. Both are lovely historic places with impressionable children, recreational and tourist offerings, churches and, hopefully, growing populations.

Keep cannabis growers and retail sales out of our area, please!

Dee Howard, Lewiston

Sent from my iPad



TRINITY COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
BUILDING ♦ PLANNING ♦ ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
P.O. BOX 2819, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093
PHONE (530) 623-1351 ♦ FAX (530) 623-1353

Kim Hunter, Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 2, 2020
TO: Members of the Trinity County Planning Commission
FROM: Kim Hunter, Director of Planning and Building
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 2 – Retail Storefront Ordinance (DEV-20-02)

Staff is requesting a continuance of this item to the July 23, 2020 Planning Commission to provide staff adequate time to make the recommended revisions, further review State law and compile relevant data regarding Cannabis retail storefront uses.



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Kim Hunter, Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 17, 2020

TO: Members of the Trinity County Planning Commission

FROM: Kim Hunter, Director of Planning and Building

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 1 – Retail Storefront Ordinance (DEV-20-02)

Due to unforeseen events, staff has been unable to complete the recommended revisions, further review State law or compile relevant data regarding Cannabis retail storefront uses as anticipated and is requesting that this item be continued to the August 13, 2020 Planning Commission meeting.



TRINITY COUNTY
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Kim Hunter, Director

MEMORANDUM #2

DATE: July 23, 2020
TO: Members of the Trinity County Planning Commission
FROM: Kim Hunter, Director of Planning and Building *KH*
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 1 – Retail Storefront Ordinance (DEV-20-02) Comments Received

The attached comments have been received regarding the proposed Cannabis Retail Storefront Ordinance.

1. Scott Morris comment letter and attachment (received July 6, 2020 via email)
2. Mr. Mrs. D. Dickerson comment letter (received July 17, 2020)

To: Trinity County Planning Commission

Re: Retail Cannabis Dispensaries in Trinity County

From: Scott Morris, Citizen

I am writing you today to express my opposition to retail cannabis shops in Trinity County. As the previous Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist for over thirteen year in Trinity County, I know well how susceptible our youth are to Cannabis abuse. The science is clear on the adverse effects of THC on the adolescent brain which does not complete development until the age of twenty-five. Despite the fact that Cannabis shops are only allowed to sell to those over twenty-one years of age, access to cannabis will become even easier for children in a county already awash in black market and homegrown cannabis. With retail cannabis shops, we will see a huge increase in edibles with poorly controlled dosage standards and products that are specifically designed and marketed to children and young adults.

Cannabis products targeting children include cannabis infused and colored Gummy Bears, lollypops, chocolate truffles and other candy products. Cannabis related emergency room visits across the country are up specifically due to overdoes from cannabis edibles. Both adult and underage patients experience rapid heartbeats, confusion and psychotic breaks. Edible cannabis is burdening already overtaxed mental health systems, emergency room health care providers and local law enforcement agencies. Emergency room visits due to edible cannabis are well document, particularly in states where cannabis has been legalized and continue to increase. Childhood exposure to and abuse of cannabis sets up the adolescent brain for a life time of substance abuse risk. Cannabis oil vaping products are just as popular as tobacco vaping products and are sold in flavors specifically designed to appeal to children and are merchandised and promoted by most retail cannabis outlets.

The cannabis industry is following the same play book as the alcohol and tobacco industry when it comes to advertisement and products which specifically appeal to underage youth and young adults. In Trinity County we have the opportunity to create safer, healthier communities. This work starts with this Planning Commission stopping the commercial cannabis industry's exploitation of our youngest citizens by refusing to allow retail cannabis in Trinity County. Thank you for your dedication to creating healthier communities through better planning.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Morris

Weaverille, California 96093

COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation.

Get the latest information from CDC ([coronavirus.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus.gov)) | [NIH Resources](#) | [NIDA Resources](#)

National Institutes of Health

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 Testimony

Marijuana and America's Health: Questions and Issues for Policy Makers

October 23, 2019

Presented by VADM Jerome M. Adams, M.D., M.P.H., U.S. Surgeon General and Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse
Presented to Caucus on International Narcotics Control



[Go to the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control site](#)

Chairman Cornyn, Co-Chairwoman Feinstein and members of the Caucus on International Narcotics Control, we appreciate the opportunity to share the content of the recent Surgeon General's Advisory on Marijuana Use and the Developing Brain with you, and to join national experts to discuss this complex issue that demands our attention and action. Recent increases in

access to marijuana and in its potency, along with misperceptions of its safety, endanger our most precious resource, our nation's youth.

Background

Marijuana, or cannabis, is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. In 2018, 43.5 million people reported using marijuana in the past year.¹ Marijuana acts by binding to cannabinoid receptors in the brain to produce a variety of effects, including euphoria, intoxication, and memory and motor impairments. These cannabinoid receptors are part of an extensive endocannabinoid system that regulates a wide range of functions, including brain development.

The endocannabinoid system appears relatively early during fetal development. As the fetal brain grows, this system influences how brain cells develop and connect with one another, and it plays a major role in the formation of brain circuits including those important for decision making, mood, and responding to stress.² Not surprisingly, animal studies have shown that in utero exposure to marijuana can interfere with the proper development and regulation of brain circuitry. Moreover, the endocannabinoid system is a critical regulator of the neuronal hardwiring that translates experience throughout the teen years and young adulthood into mature brain architecture. This helps explain why the developing brain is particularly vulnerable to chronic exposure to delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the component of marijuana responsible for euphoria, intoxication, and addiction.

Marijuana and its related products are widely available in multiple forms, with varying concentrations of constituent chemicals, the most salient of which are known collectively as "cannabinoids". In addition to varying levels of THC, marijuana also contains cannabidiol (CBD). While pure CBD is not intoxicating and does not lead to addiction, its long-term effects are largely unknown. In addition to THC and CBD, the marijuana plant also contains hundreds of other cannabinoid and non-cannabinoid components, many of which have not been studied extensively.

Marijuana has changed over time; the marijuana available today is much more potent than what was available in the past. The THC concentration in commonly cultivated marijuana plants increased three-fold between 1995 and 2014 (4 percent and 12 percent, respectively),⁴ and marijuana available in dispensaries in some states has average concentrations of THC between 17.7 percent and 23.2 percent.⁵ Concentrated products, commonly known as dabs or waxes, are

widely available to recreational users today and may contain between 23.7 percent and 75.9 percent THC.⁶

The risks of physical dependence, addiction, and other negative consequences increase with frequent use, exposure to high concentrations of THC⁷ and with younger age of initiation. Higher doses of THC are more likely to produce anxiety, agitation, paranoia, and psychosis.⁸ Use of edible marijuana can increase the risk of unintentional overdose due to its lengthy absorption time and delayed effect, often prompting the user to take a second dose. Edibles, which may have the appearance of desserts or snacks, are also increasingly a cause of accidental ingestion by children⁹ and adolescents.¹⁰ In addition, chronic users of marijuana with a high THC content are at risk for developing a condition known as cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome, which is marked by severe cycles of nausea and vomiting.¹¹ The increase in the THC content of marijuana, combined with the growing availability of loosely regulated cannabis products, has led to a worrisome upward trend in the rate of calls to poison control centers and emergency department visits over the past decade.

Surgeon General's Advisory on Marijuana Use and the Developing Brain

On August 29, 2019, the Surgeon General's Advisory on Marijuana Use and the Developing Brain was issued to emphasize the importance of protecting our Nation from the health risks of marijuana use in adolescence and during pregnancy. This advisory is intended to raise awareness of the known and potential harms that the increasing availability of highly-potent marijuana in multiple, concentrated forms poses to the developing brain of youth and young adults who consume it. These harms can be long-lasting and costly to individuals and to our society, impacting mental health and educational achievement and raising the risks of addiction and other psychiatric disorders. In addition to the health risks posed by marijuana use, the sale or possession of marijuana remains illegal under federal law, notwithstanding some state laws to the contrary.

Marijuana Use during Pregnancy

Pregnant women use marijuana more than any other illicit drug. In a national survey, marijuana use in the past month among pregnant women doubled (3.4 percent to 7 percent) between 2002 and 2017¹², although this trend may be starting to reverse based on the most recent data reported in the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. In a study conducted in a large health system in California, marijuana use rose by 69 percent (4.2 percent to 7.1 percent) between 2009

and 2016 among pregnant women, with the highest rates of use occurring among pregnant women under the age of 25. These researchers found that 22 percent of pregnant girls under the age of 18 and 19 percent of pregnant women ages 18-24 used marijuana in 2016.¹³ Alarming, many retail dispensaries recommended marijuana to pregnant women for morning sickness.¹⁴

Since the THC in marijuana crosses the placenta, it may disrupt the important role the endocannabinoid system plays in fetal brain development and in maintaining a healthy pregnancy.² Moreover, the placenta itself has cannabinoid receptors, which might contribute to restricted fetal growth with cannabis use during pregnancy³⁴. Indeed, studies have shown that marijuana use in pregnancy is associated with adverse outcomes, including lower birth weight and 16 and preterm delivery.³⁵ For example, The Colorado Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System reported that maternal marijuana use was associated with a 50 percent increased risk of low birth weight regardless of maternal age, race, ethnicity, education, and tobacco use.¹⁶

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists holds that “[w]omen who are pregnant or contemplating pregnancy should be encouraged to discontinue marijuana use. Women reporting marijuana use should be counseled about concerns regarding potential adverse health consequences of continued use during pregnancy.”¹⁷ In a 2018 clinical guidance statement, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended that health professionals, “...advise all adolescents and young women that if they become pregnant, marijuana should not be used during pregnancy”¹⁸.

While cannabis use *during* pregnancy is associated with increased risk of adverse birth outcomes, later effects on the child due to exposure to THC through breastmilk are still unclear. This is in part due to challenges disentangling the long-term effects associated with marijuana exposure *in utero* versus during nursing. Although additional research is needed in this area, there is ample reason for caution, as THC has been detected in breastmilk for up to six days after the last recorded use. Additionally, marijuana smoke contains many of the same harmful components as tobacco smoke;²² no one should smoke marijuana or tobacco around a baby.

Marijuana Use during Adolescence

Each day in 2018, 3700 adolescents aged 12 to 17 became new users of marijuana.¹ Although marijuana use declined among 8th graders and remains unchanged among 10th and 12th graders compared to five years ago, high school students' perception of the harm from regular marijuana use has been steadily declining over the last decade.²⁴ In 2018, only about a third (34.9 percent) of adolescents aged 12 to 17 perceived great risk from weekly marijuana use.¹ During this same

period, a number of states legalized adult and/or so-called medicinal use of marijuana, though it remains illegal under federal law. Importantly, medical marijuana laws may allow for use at a younger age than adult recreational laws. The legalization movement may be impacting youth perception of harm from marijuana.

The human brain continues to develop from before birth into the mid-20s and is vulnerable to the effects of addictive substances.^{25, 26} Frequent marijuana use during adolescence is associated with structural and functional changes in areas of the brain involved in attention, memory, decision-making, and motivation, and in deficits in attention and memory.²⁷ Marijuana can also impair learning in adolescents. Chronic use is linked to declines in IQ and school performance, which may jeopardize professional and social achievements, and life satisfaction.²⁹ Regular use of marijuana in adolescence is linked to increased rates of school absence and drop-out, as well as suicide attempts.²⁹

Marijuana use is also linked to both overall risk for and early onset of psychotic disorders, such as schizophrenia. The risk for psychotic disorders increases with frequency of use, potency of the marijuana product, and younger age of initiation.³⁰ Adolescent marijuana use is also associated with other substance use.^{31,32} In 2017, teens 12-17 reporting frequent use of marijuana showed a 130 percent greater likelihood of misusing opioids.²³ 2018 data from 8th, 10th, and 12th graders show that a third reported lifetime cannabis use and almost a quarter reported lifetime use of concentrated products. Adolescents using concentrates show higher rates of other substance use and risk factors for substance use-related problems.³³ Marijuana's increasingly widespread availability in multiple and highly potent forms, coupled with a false and dangerous perception of safety among youth, merits a nationwide call to action.

Research Supported by the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

NIH supports a broad range of research aimed at understanding the public health effects of marijuana use at all stages of life. NIDA's portfolio includes research on the pharmacology of THC and other cannabinoids in the marijuana plant; the molecular mechanisms underlying the effect of marijuana use on the brain, including its development; epidemiologic studies to elucidate the prevalence and patterns of marijuana use; research to understand the brain changes associated with cannabis addiction and other adverse effects such as amotivation, an unwillingness to participate in normal social situations; research on the potentially beneficial effects of marijuana and its constituent compounds; applied research aimed at preventing and treating cannabis

misuse and addiction; as well as research aimed at understanding how marijuana policies affect public health.

There is still much we do not know about the impact of marijuana exposure during the vulnerable periods of adolescence and pregnancy; therefore, these remain key areas of focus for NIDA. Two current studies with great potential to advance knowledge in these areas are the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study and the HEALTHY Brain and Child Development (HBCD) study. ABCD, the largest long-term study of brain development and child health in the United States, is expected to yield an unprecedented amount of information about normal brain development and how it is affected by substance use—including use of marijuana—and other childhood experiences. The ABCD study has recruited over 11,000 children ages 9-10 and is following them into early adulthood. By integrating structural and functional brain imaging with genetic and biological markers, along with psychological, behavioral, and other health assessments, ABCD will increase our understanding of the many factors that can enhance or disrupt a young person's life trajectory. Complementing ABCD is the HBCD Study, which is currently in its planning phase. HBCD would establish a large cohort of pregnant women and assess maternal and child outcomes over the course of at least 10 years. In parallel to the ABCD study, findings from this cohort will help researchers understand both normal childhood brain development as well as the long-term impact of prenatal and postnatal drug and environmental exposures.

Key Messages and Critical Actions

No amount of marijuana use during pregnancy or during youth when the brain is under development is known to be safe. Until and unless more is known about the long-term impact, the safest choice for pregnant women and youth is not to use marijuana. Although women generally tend to limit drug use during pregnancy, education efforts on marijuana's adverse effects during pregnancy should be expanded and improved. Pregnant women and youth--and those who love them--need the facts and resources to support healthy decisions. It is critical to educate women and youth, as well as family members, school officials, state and local leaders, and health professionals, about the risks of marijuana.

Science-based messaging campaigns and targeted prevention programming are urgently needed to ensure that risks are clearly communicated and amplified by local, state, and national organizations. Clinicians can help by asking about marijuana use, and by informing pregnant women, new mothers, young people, and those vulnerable to psychotic disorders of the risks associated with marijuana use. Clinicians can also prescribe safe, effective, and FDA-approved treatments for nausea, depression, and pain during pregnancy.

What we know now about the impact of marijuana exposure during adolescence, as well as during prenatal development is enough to warrant concern and action. Still, further research is needed to understand the full effects of marijuana exposure on biological, cognitive, and social development, especially the mid- and long-term consequences of prenatal and youth exposures. The wide and ever-increasing array of cannabis products used both recreationally and for therapeutic purposes also raise significant public health concerns, particularly when used by young people and pregnant women. Additional research aimed at evaluating the health effects of these products is critical.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this summary of the current trends in marijuana use among youth and pregnant women; the state of the evidence regarding the harms to developing brains; and the steps we can take together to understand more about and to mitigate those harms in order to protect our youth, the future of our nation. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

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Related Articles

 Testimony

Hearing on Cannabis Policies for the New Decade



 Testimony

Federal Efforts to Combat the Opioid Crisis: A Status Update on CARA and Other Initiatives

Cannabis and Canada's children and youth

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Abstract

Cannabis is the most common illicit drug used worldwide and it is used frequently by Canadian teenagers. Cannabis use during adolescence can cause functional and structural changes to the developing brain, leading to damage. Marijuana use in this age group is strongly linked to: cannabis dependence and other substance use disorders; the initiation and maintenance of tobacco smoking; an increased presence of mental illness, including depression, anxiety and psychosis; impaired neurological development and cognitive decline; and diminished school performance and lifetime achievement. Rates of acute medical care and hospitalization for younger children who have ingested cannabis unintentionally are increasing. Ongoing debate concerning cannabis regulation in Canada makes paying close attention to the evidence for its health effects and ensuring that appropriate safeguards are in place, vital public health priorities.

Keywords: Adolescents, CUD, CWS, Neurodevelopment, THC, Youth

Cannabis refers to various psychoactive preparations of the plant *Cannabis sativa*, including marijuana (the dried and crushed leaves and flower buds), hashish (the resin of flower buds) and cannabis extracts (i.e., oils or wax). Common terms for marijuana include 'pot', 'grass' and 'weed'. Cannabis can be inhaled (as smoke or vapour) or ingested, depending on its form. When smoked, joints (cannabis cigarettes), blunts (cannabis cigars) and pipes (from personal devices to large, shared bongs) are commonly employed. A growing trend in e-cigarette use by youth has led to the more recent practice of 'vaping' cannabis [1]. 'Edibles' or marijuana-infused food products in various formats, including cookies and candies, may attract teens who wish to avoid smoking [2].

Although some study participants claim that recreational cannabis use has positive effects [3], most of the scientific literature has focused on its deleterious outcomes. In light of the current public debate on the decriminalization and legalization of cannabis in Canada, paediatricians and other health care providers need to be aware of the physical and mental health issues that are specific to cannabis use by youth as well as the risks to younger children of unintentional exposure. Cannabis use for medical purposes has been addressed in a recent position statement from the Canadian Paediatric Society [4].

INCIDENCE AND PREVALENCE

Cannabis is the world's most widely used illicit drug. In 2010, Canadian youth ranked first for cannabis use among 43 countries and regions across Europe and North America, with one-third of youth (regardless of gender) having tried cannabis at least once by age 15 [5]. Regional variations in the frequency of cannabis use exist, with Atlantic and Western provinces in Canada reporting higher use than other regions [6]. Indigenous youth are particularly at risk; nearly two-thirds of 15- to 19-year-old Inuit participants from an earlier study in Nunavik, Quebec, self-reported past-year use [7]. In Ontario, 13.8% of 7th to 12th graders reported past-month use for 2015, while 12th graders reported the highest daily use, at 5.6% [8]. Frequency of use increases as students progress through high school, yet global use among Canadian youth has declined since the turn of the century.

A concerning inverse relationship exists such that as the perceived harm related to cannabis use decreases, the frequency of cannabis use increases [8]. The effect of legalizing cannabis on rates of use in adolescents in some parts of the USA is under preliminary study. Although early reports from Colorado and Washington do not appear to indicate a significant increasing prevalence among adolescents [9][10], Colorado has recently reported one of the highest state prevalences for cannabis use in adolescents, while other states experienced a decline in use during the same period. Colorado has also reported increasing rates of use as students progress through high school [10], while perceptions of risk declined among youth in both states [9][10].

Scientific research over the last 15 years has established that the human brain continues to develop into a person's early 20s. Concern is rising that exposure to cannabis during this important developmental period causes greater adverse effects in adolescents compared with older adults, whose brains are fully developed [11][12]. One of the main chemicals responsible for the perceptual and emotional changes associated with cannabis is delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (delta-9-THC), which stimulates the cannabinoid receptors. These receptors modulate the secretion of gamma-aminobutyric acid and glutamate within the central nervous system, two neurotransmitters that have significant neurodevelopmental effects on the brain [13]. The frontal cortex, responsible for higher order cognitive processes such as judgment and decision making, is undergoing rapid change and, as such, is more susceptible to THC [14]–[16]. The endocannabinoid system, which is involved in the maturation of cortical neuronal networks through the modulation of dopamine, is affected concurrently. When exogenous THC enters the system, it targets receptors in much higher quantities than endogenous cannabinoids and 'floods' receptors, with two main results: a system that is no longer working as effectively and toxic changes to the neurons involved [17].

Structural changes on MRI have also been documented in youth who use cannabis regularly. They show lower brain volumes, different folding patterns and thinning of the cortex, less neural connectivity and lower white matter integrity, all of which indicate damage by THC [18]. Finally, functional MRI studies in adolescents who use cannabis regularly have demonstrated increased neural activity, which means the brain is working harder to perform tasks. In other words, the brain must overcome or compensate for altered integrity caused by the effects of cannabis use [19]. Importantly, the THC content of marijuana available today is two to four times higher than from typical products used 40 years ago [20], a factor likely to magnify impact on the adolescent brain.

INTOXICATION

The experience of being 'high' described by users encompasses a wide range of sensations, with euphoria, distorted perception and relaxation being the most common. Some users experience extreme anxiety and 'panic attack'-like symptoms [21]. Documented areas of impairment include short-term memory, performance of complex mental tasks, attention and judgment. Reaction times and motor skills are also compromised [22]. Many occasional users of cannabis only experience the intended effects of a high, but risks for an adverse experience still exist, especially for regular users.

Cannabis-impaired driving is now more prevalent among adolescents than alcohol-impaired driving [8]. In 2015, 9.8% of Ontario students in grades 10 to 12 with a driver's licence admitted to having driven after using cannabis at least once during the previous year [8]. One meta-analysis revealed that cannabis use more than doubled the risk of being in a motor vehicle accident [23]. Simulation studies have identified the deficits associated with driving under the influence of cannabis, with a lowered ability to stay within a lane being the driving skill most affected [24][25]. According to a recent survey, only 48% of Canadian teens 16 to 19 years of age recognized the danger of driving under the influence of cannabis, compared with 79% who recognized the risk of driving under the influence of alcohol [26]. In fact, both cannabis and alcohol impair driving significantly, and it is likely that the effects are cumulative [26]. However, while blood ethanol levels are readily measurable and can establish recent use, reliable laboratory markers of acute cannabis use are still under investigation. Persistence of metabolites in urine for as long as 77 days after cessation of cannabis use has been described [27].

Furthermore, consuming cannabis-infused edibles may inadvertently result in toxicity because absorption can take hours, compared with minutes when smoking [2]. An individual who does not yet feel an effect may over-consume, and the unintended consumption of edibles manufactured to look like sweets by younger children is particularly concerning. In Colorado, rates of unintentional ingestion in children <9 years of age increased by 34% after legalization [28]. Thirty-five per cent of these cases required hospitalization for overdose symptoms, including severe drowsiness and respiratory depression [28].

CANNABIS USE DISORDER (CUD) AND CANNABIS WITHDRAWAL SYNDROME (CWS)

It is estimated that one in six adolescents who use cannabis during their adolescence will meet criteria for dependence [29][30]. CUD, a new DSM-5 diagnosis, integrates cannabis abuse and dependence into a single entity [31]. CUD is defined as a problematic pattern of cannabis use leading to clinically significant impairment in areas of function or distress within a 12-month period [31]. Usually, adolescents experience the following functional impairments: reduced academic performance, truancy, reduced participation and interest in extracurricular activities, withdrawal from their usual peer groups and conflict with family. The 12-month prevalence of CUD among North American adolescents is just above 3%, with males and older youth being disproportionately affected [29].

CWS appears for the first time as a psychiatric diagnosis in the DSM-5 [31]. CWS is defined by experiencing at least two of five psychological symptoms—irritability, anxiety, depressed mood, sleep disturbance, appetite changes—and at least one of six physical symptoms—abdominal pain, shaking, fever, chills, headache, diaphoresis—after cessation of heavy cannabis use. Heavy cannabis use is defined as daily or near daily use for at least a few months. Withdrawal symptoms commonly occur 24 h to 72 h after last use [32] and persist for 1 to 2 weeks. Sleep disturbance is often reported for up to 1 month. CWS may impede cannabis cessation and precipitate relapse [32].

CANNABIS USE RELATED TO TOBACCO AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

with cannabis use [33]. The use of marijuana and cigarettes at age 18 is predictive of heavy drinking at age 35 [34]. Eighty per cent of young cannabis users also smoke tobacco [35][36], indicating a strong link between these two drugs. Cannabis use is also linked to tobacco via 'mulling': the addition of tobacco to cannabis cigarettes [37]. Mixing the two substances aids combustion and constitutes a significant exposure to nicotine [38]. Using both tobacco and cannabis concomitantly contributes significantly to symptoms of cannabis dependence because withdrawal symptoms following the simultaneous cessation from two substances are more severe than from one alone [39].

Regarding other drugs, one prospective, longitudinal study demonstrated that cannabis use during adolescence is associated with a six fold increase in future ecstasy consumption [40]. A study from France of adults and adolescents reported past-year use of illicit drugs at 0.4% among cannabis nonusers, compared with 25% among regular cannabis users [41]. A recent trend has been the consumption of synthetic cannabinoids, known colloquially as 'K2' or 'spice', which can be one hundred times more potent than THC [42] and have greater potential for toxic effects, including acute renal failure and death [43].

CANNABIS, DEPRESSION AND ANXIETY

Research suggests a strong association between daily cannabis use and depression in adolescents and young adults. However, a causal relationship has not been established. Epidemiological studies suggest that heavy cannabis use is associated with an increase in mood disorders, especially in individuals who may already be vulnerable to major depressive episodes [44][45]. One study demonstrated a threefold higher risk for major depressive episode [46]. Recent data suggest that cannabis use starting in adolescence and continuing into young adulthood is required for the association of cannabis with depression [47], and the data confirming a specific association between cannabis use and anxiety disorders is weaker. However, one large cohort study found an association between frequent cannabis use and the incidence of anxiety symptoms in young adulthood [48]. It also appears that social anxiety disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder are risk factors for developing problematic patterns of cannabis use [48][49].

PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS AND SCHIZOPHRENIA

Cannabis can produce an acute/transient psychosis in adolescents, even without a history of prior mental illness. Diverse psychotic symptoms have been reported, such as depersonalization, de-realization, dream-like euphoria, disorientation, delusions, hallucinations and paranoid ideation [50]. The strongest evidence of a direct effect of cannabis on perception and cognitive function comes from research involving healthy volunteers, who developed transient symptoms resembling schizophrenia after intravenous THC was administered [51]. In some adolescents, acute/transient psychotic symptoms persisted for days, prompting consultation for medical or psychiatric evaluation. Large longitudinal studies have demonstrated that more than 50% of youth who develop such symptoms will develop a future psychotic disorder [52].

Although the absolute risk for developing psychosis is low, the risk for developing a psychotic outcome of any nature is increased by 40% in individuals who have used cannabis during their lifetime [53]. A strong association between heavy cannabis use and psychosis has been documented repeatedly in the literature. The association appears to be temporally related, demonstrates a dose-response relationship and is biologically plausible [54]. One meta-analysis provided evidence of a relationship between cannabis use and onset of psychotic illness, thus supporting the hypothesis that cannabis use plays a causal role in the development of psychosis in some individuals, especially those who have a family or personal history of psychosis [55].

Overall, individuals with a psychotic disorder show higher rates of cannabis use than those experiencing other mental disorders, with the exception of substance use disorder. More specifically, schizophrenia usually emerges toward the end of adolescence or in early adulthood, and accumulating evidence points to a causal relationship with heavy cannabis use. The prevalence of schizophrenia is about 1% in the adult population, and the risk of developing this illness is doubled in heavy cannabis users [55]. Recent data indicate that using high-potency cannabis represents an even greater risk [56].

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE, COGNITIVE DECLINE AND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

The relationship between cannabis use and academic performance is complex. While direct causation between use and level of performance is uncertain, there are undeniable associations between cannabis use in youth and lower educational attainment [57]. This relationship could be due to the fact that students who do not do well in school are more likely to use cannabis. Alternatively, cannabis use and substandard educational attainment may have common risk factors [57]. However, the observation that cognitive function, particularly working memory, is impaired both acutely and in the days following cannabis use suggests a direct link between cannabis use and reduced educational achievement [58]. Short-term impairment in cognitive performance can lead students to fall behind, thus placing them at a disadvantage for future learning. Also, individuals who begin using cannabis in early adolescence or who chronically use cannabis are at risk for long-lasting cognitive impairments [59]. Specifically, deficits in decision-making skills, concept formation and planning have been reported, and studies suggest that cannabis users are less likely to complete high school [57].

Scientific research is equivocal regarding the association between IQ and cannabis. Two recent longitudinal studies involving sets of twins indicated that the IQ scores of cannabis users declined significantly over time though not significantly more than in their non-cannabis-using twin [60]. One large cohort study had previously found that IQ scores declined significantly among heavy cannabis users who were followed prospectively from adolescence to

was sustained throughout follow-up, IQ scores dropped an average of 10 points. Also, when persistent users started heavy cannabis use during adolescence, their cognitive decline was greater than in individuals who started using after 18 years of age.

All the factors described above may contribute to higher unemployment levels, involvement in criminal activity, greater social assistance requirements as well as compound the lower levels of life satisfaction reported by heavy cannabis users [62]. While there are probably multiple explanations for the association between cannabis use and lower lifetime achievement, regular use can act as both cause and consequence. The point to bear in mind is that cognitive impairments have been linked to cannabis and some of these effects have a greater impact when cannabis is used in adolescence [63]. Among all trajectories of cannabis use, nonusers consistently have the most favourable socioeconomic and health outcomes at age 29, whereas early heavy users have the least [13].

CONCLUSION

Youth should not use cannabis recreationally because its many potentially harmful effects are serious. These effects are present in the entire population; however, the developing brain is especially sensitive to the negative consequences of cannabis use. Canadian youth are at significant risk for developing CUD and, possibly, for doubling their risk of having a psychotic illness. Driving under the influence of cannabis increases the risk for motor vehicle accidents. Where cannabis has been legalized in the USA, children are requiring emergent medical care at greater rates due to unintentional ingestion.

The potential extension of the legal cannabis industry in Canada has raised a dilemma regarding the most appropriate age for its legal use, which should minimize harm to children and youth, the population most vulnerable to the product. On the one hand, prohibiting cannabis use until the mid-20s would protect adolescents during a period of critical brain development. On the other, adolescents and young adults are already experimenting frequently with marijuana. Aligning the legal age for cannabis use with that for other legally controlled substances, notably alcohol and tobacco, would help ensure that youth who have attained age of majority have access to a regulated product, with a known potency. Also, they would be less liable to engage in high-risk illegal activities to access cannabis.

Cannabis legislation will have a significant impact on the lives and health of children and youth, and safeguards are necessary. Based on the physical and mental health risks, and with many legal, financial and public safety issues at stake, policy makers—with support from physicians and the public at large—must continue to limit access to cannabis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To protect children and adolescents from the harms associated with recreational cannabis use and cannabis dependence, the Canadian Paediatric Society recommends the following:

Governments should:

- Prohibit sales of all cannabis products to children and youth under the legal age for buying tobacco products and alcohol (18 or 19 years, depending on location).
- Consider limiting the concentration of THC in cannabis that 18- to 25-year-olds can purchase legally.
- Enact and rigorously enforce regulations on the cannabis industry to limit the availability and marketing of cannabis to minors. These regulations must:
 - prohibit dispensaries from being located close to elementary, middle and high schools, licensed child care centres, community centres, residential neighbourhoods and youth facilities.
 - prohibit the sale of cannabis products by means of self-service displays or dispensing devices.
 - mandate strict labelling standards for all cannabis products, including a complete and accurate list of ingredients and an exact measure of cannabis concentration.
 - mandate package warnings for all cannabis products, including known and potential harmful effects of exposure (e.g., to young children and the fetus during pregnancy), similar to messaging on cigarette packaging.
 - mandate and enforce strict marketing and promotional standards, including a ban on all cannabis industry-related advertising and on the sponsorship of events, activities or permanent facilities by the cannabis industry.
 - mandate and enforce a ban on the marketing of cannabis-related products using strategies or venues that attract children and youth, including (but not limited to) 'candy-like' edibles, 'giveaways' and promotion through social media.
 - restrict the online sales of all cannabis and related products only to individuals identified as being older than the legal drinking age in the province or territory where they reside.
- Extend and align existing anti-tobacco legislation at all government levels to include cannabis (i.e., prohibiting smoking in public venues, smoking in cars where a child is present).
- Fund public education campaigns to reinforce that cannabis is not safe for children and youth by raising awareness of the harms associated with cannabis use and dependence. These campaigns should be developed in collaboration with youth leaders and should include messages from young

youth who are found to be under the influence.

- Increase funding for the research, prevention and treatment of substance use in adolescents and young adults.
- Increase funding for mental health promotion and for treating mental illness in this age group.
- Consult with Indigenous communities on adapting legislation, preventative measures and/or interventions to meet local conditions and cultural requirements.
- Actively monitor the impacts on youth of changes to cannabis legislation.

Health care providers should:

- Be aware of and communicate the health risks related to cannabis use.
- Screen all children and youth for cannabis exposure and/or use and educate adolescents and families on the health risks and harms associated with cannabis.
- Provide anticipatory guidance to parents and older children on the potential health risks of cannabis use.

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Disclaimer: The recommendations in this position statement do not indicate an exclusive course of treatment or procedure to be followed. Variations, taking into account individual circumstances, may be appropriate. Internet addresses are current at time of publication.

Last updated: Jul 17, 2018

Let's Be Clear Georgia

A Collaborative to Prevent Marijuana Abuse

Let's Be Clear Georgia is a partnership of private and public agencies, employers, and individuals engaging in best practices and policies to prevent marijuana abuse in our state.

HOW AND WHY THE MARIJUANA INDUSTRY TARGETS YOUTH



THE MARIJUANA INDUSTRY LEARNED FROM BIG TOBACCO

It's important to know as much as possible about "Big Tobacco" and teenage smoking patterns and attitudes to in order to understand why the marijuana industry, like the tobacco industry, also targets youth.

According to Phillip Morris, "Today's teenager is tomorrow's potential regular customer, and the overwhelming majority of smokers first begin to smoke while in their teens . . . it is during

the teenage years that the initial brand choice is made."¹

Legalized marijuana means bringing in a second "Big Tobacco" that is psychoactive. The emerging marijuana industry will target the same populations, such as youth and minorities, that are targeted by the tobacco and alcohol industries. There are already private holding groups and financiers that have raised millions of start-up dollars to promote businesses that will sell marijuana and marijuana-related merchandise.

HOW THEY TARGET YOUTH

Cannabis food, drinks and candy are being marketed to children and are already responsible for a growing number of marijuana-related emergency room visits.² Numerous products such as "Ring Pots" and "Pot Tarts" are inspired by youth-friendly products such "Ring Pops" and "Pop Tarts". Marijuana vending machines containing products such as marijuana brownies and candies are emerging throughout the country.³ Manufacturers are adding marijuana to everything from cookies to chocolate bars, sodas and candies, with THC strength and serving size vary widely.

With the emergence of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), teens and adults are using these devices to "vape" (inhaling vapor rather than smoke) cannabis products. According to a report released by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the number of youth who tried electronic cigarettes tripled between

2011 and 2013. CDC also reports the majority of teens who use e-cigarettes has never tried regular tobacco, which is surprising considering the device is touted as a way to replace normal cigarettes.⁴ E-cigarette ads target youth by trying to make vaping the cool new trend and selling colorful devices sold with flavored liquids such as bubble gum and cotton candy that attract young people. A number of these vaporizers look like pens so students won't be caught vaping in school.

KNOW THE "BIG MARIJUANA" PLAN OF ACTION

- 1) Remove the perception of harm — decriminalize an ounce.
- 2) Give marijuana a good name — marijuana as medicine.
- 3) Legalize 5

WHAT GEORGIANS SHOULD KNOW:

- 1) The former Corporate Strategy Manager for Microsoft has said that he wants to "mint more millionaires than Microsoft" with marijuana and that he wants to create the "Starbucks of marijuana."⁶
- 2) In other states such as Colorado, emergency rooms are treating one to two kids a month for accidental marijuana ingestion, mostly in the form of edibles such as brownies or candies.⁷
- 3) Marijuana edibles are currently not state-tested for strength and the effects can vary widely from product to product.
- 4) The 2014 Monitoring the Future survey also revealed that in states with medical marijuana laws, 40 percent of 12th graders who reported using marijuana in the past year said they had consumed marijuana in food products (edibles).⁸

TO LEARN MORE VISIT:

<http://clearga.org/how-and-why-the-marijuana-industry-targets-youth>

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www.ClearGA.org
5101 Old Highway 5, #609, Lebanon, GA 30146
For information please email support@clearga.org or call (678) 506-1572

July 10, 2020

Trinity County Planning Commission
C/O Kim Hunter, Director
Trinity County Planning Department
P.O. Box 2819/ 61 Airport Road
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Proposed Cannabis Storefront Retail Sales Ordinance

Dear Planning Commisioners:

Retail cannabis sales should not be next to residential neighborhoods.

The 500 foot setback from churches and schools should be increased to 1,000 foot and should also include school bus stops.

The opt-out clause should be written so that the voters in Douglas City, Lewiston, or other areas in the county can vote to opt out of the cannabis ordinance.

A Conditional Use Permit (C.U.P.) should be required so that a traffic study, environmental impact, security issues, lighting, air pollution, restrooms, water, sewer, fire protection and neighborhood input can be evaluated in the C.U.P. process.

Crime comes with cannabis sales. Residents have to deal with the crime that cannabis brings. We have enough crime already. Please keep it out of Douglas City.

We must not forget the things that attract residents and tourists to Trinity County are the natural beauty of lakes, streams, blue skies and resultant fishing, boating, swimming etc.

Respectfully,

Mr. and Mrs. D. Dickerson
Douglas City, CA


RECEIVED
JUL 17 2020
TRINITY COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT



TRINITY COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
BUILDING ♦ PLANNING ♦ ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
P.O. BOX 2819, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093
PHONE (530) 623-1351 ♦ FAX (530) 623-1353

Kim Hunter, Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 7, 2020
TO: Members of the Trinity County Planning Commission
FROM: Kim Hunter, Director of Planning and Building 
SUBJECT: Agenda Item 1 – Retail Storefront Ordinance (DEV-20-02)

Staff has not been able to complete the requested revisions to the draft ordinance, review applicable State laws or prepare related supporting document for this item. As a result, staff is requesting a continuance of this to an undetermined date.

One comment letter was received on August 6, 2020 and is attached for your review.

RECEIVED

AUG 06 2020

TRINITY COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Mtn View, Calif

94040

7/31/20

Trinity Co Planning Commissioner
Weaverville, Calif.

Dear Planning Commissioners

I recently just heard that you are considering allowing cannabees retail store to be operated in Trinity County.

As a long time property owner here in Trinity Co. for over 45 years I and my extended family object to this very strongly. Our full time residence is near San Francisco & we value so much all the time we spend there. It is our "happy place". We love the hiking, fishing, scenery and the solitude! So valuable to us being in a very busy area.

Until you can get some ^{regulation} with non Trinity residents coming to our area to grow, plus destroy our environment, pollute our creeks and rivers you really do not need to get into something else

(3)

I plead with all of you to really consider what you are going to be responsible for. In addition there at the present time is no regulation about the product these stores sales.

Thank you for
letting me have input
Nancy Mareschale

Deborah Rogge

From: Jvorp
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2022 9:48 AM
To: Info.Planning
Subject: Comments on Cannabis Storefront Retail Ordinance wrt Senior Equity and Access

Creating an ordinance for retail cannabis will finally fill a need that is crucial for the county but especially needed by seniors. In 2019 the median age in Trinity County was 52.5. According to the recent census, 28.3% of the population in trinity county is >65 (4,600 folks). Aging populations require multiple strategies to maintain their quality of life including the use of a full range of cannabis products. Today's seniors are the first generation to enjoy the option and freedom of benefitting from cannabis. Realizing the full potential value for seniors in Trinity County will require the same equity and access to cannabis products afforded to traditional pharmacy-provided products. Please consider locations easily accessible to seniors by not unreasonably restricting retail cannabis locations. The former Owens Pharmacy is an example of a great location for a facility. Thank you for your consideration of the needs of seniors.

Sincerely
John Vorpahl