

TO: Mayor and Council Members
Marlene Best, City Manager
Shawn Hagerty, City Attorney

FROM: Annette Ortiz, CMC, City Clerk

DATE: March 9, 2022

SUBJ: UPDATED COUNCIL MEETING MATERIALS – MARCH 9, 2022

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

(8) Cannabis Workshop No. 4. (City Manager– Best)

The attached correspondence relating to the above-mentioned Item is provided for your consideration of this Item.



From: [Barbara Gordon](#)
To: [John Minto](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item 8 message from constituent
Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 1:21:35 PM

Dear City Council Member,

As a public health educator, I'm increasingly concerned with the long-term public health effects of marijuana use. IASIC, the International Academy on the Science and Impact of Cannabis, is a medical organization of doctors who educate on marijuana based on scientific and medical literature.

IASIC is a non-partisan, non-political group. Their scientific research provides accurate and honest information recognizing the use of marijuana as potentially harmful.

I urge the City Council to visit the website IASIC1.org for the thousands of peer reviewed medical articles on the harms and long-term consequences of cannabis and marijuana.

Public health effects of commercial marijuana on communities need to be considered. The growing negative impacts continue to strain our health care and addiction treatment resources. These impacts far surpass any tax revenues the city receives.

Tobacco years ago was promoted as harmless before smoking was linked to all kinds of cancers. The opioid industry marketed its drugs as non-addictive and safe and we are still dealing with that crisis. Let's learn from our mistakes and not repeat them with marijuana.

We need public health policies that follow the science, prevent addiction, decrease mental illness and not support a predatory industry that addicts its customers.

Thank you,

Barbara Gordon

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [REDACTED]
To: [John Minto](#); [Rob McNelis](#); [Ronn Hall](#); [Laura Koval](#); [Dustin Trotter](#)
Cc: [Clerk Info](#)
Subject: LETTER REGARDING ITEM 8 on MARCH 9 AGENDA
Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 9:57:48 AM

Good evening Mayor and City Council Members,

Per tonight's agenda (Item 8), I see that the City is considering moving forward with marijuana businesses by conducting its 4th Marijuana workshop. As a parent and grandparent and after spending countless hours on parent and community boards, I hope that you as a City Council are take the time to look at all the negative impacts that marijuana businesses would bring to Santee.

I am well aware of the unfortunate health outcomes, especially mental health issues that marijuana use causes. Much is at stake with the opening of any type of marijuana business as it is a major health concern to all – young and old. For teens who started using marijuana, they are 37% more likely than non users to suffer depression. For adults 25-45 who have consumed marijuana more than 4 times in the last month, have almost double the amount of myocardial infarctions compared to those who were not users.

Marijuana use is contributing to a "burgeoning public health crisis that is only getting started and will get much worse unless lawmakers act quickly to rein in this newest addition to the for profit addiction industry" said Dr. Sharif Mohr, an epidemiologist who received his PhD from UCSD.

Santee residents don't need access to marijuana, it is everywhere. However good health is precious and the City should only involve themselves in those business activities that will enhance good health.

From: [Judi Strang](#)
To: [John Minto](#); [Rob McNelis](#); [Laura Koval](#); [Ronn Hall](#); [Dustin Trotter](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: RE: Marijuana businesses in Santee cost far more than any taxes received
Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 9:51:58 PM

Good morning City Council.

I am writing to you as a parent advocate in response to City Council Agenda Item 8 that implies that Santee could move forward with marijuana businesses because they fear on an industry dictated initiative.

Have no fear. There is no data that says you won't be successful if the City pushes back by signing the ballot argument against at election time, if the initiative gets to that point.

Otherwise your citizens are at the mercy of out-of-town moneyed interests with slick mailers with untrue statements.

And don't be fooled about arguments that Prop 64 was a mandate for marijuana business..IT WAS NOT. It was about personal possession and cultivation (six plants) not about the commercialization of marijuana. And it clearly included local control which is why only 25% of CA Cities allow marijuana businesses.

Meanwhile out-of-town Marijuana business people and their attorneys try to sell city council on the idea that allowing dispensaries is a revenue source for economic development for a City.

That is not true and has never been true.

The only one who makes money are marijuana businesses whose business plan is to increase use by those already using pot, and by creating new users, probably young.

Marijuana businesses in Santee would cost far more than any taxes received > in staff time and enforcement re problems to neighborhood. Also marijuana businesses are very litigious re decisions City Councils and staff make all along the application and vetting process.

Marijuana businesses bring promotions that are attractive to youth, and visible pot shops that normalize its use for young people.

This is an unwise and unhealthy idea.

Regards, Judi Strang,
Health Committee, Ninth District PTA County
Office of Education

From: [Terri-Ann Skelly](#)
To: [Clerk Info](#); [John Minto](#); [Rob McNelis](#); [Ronn Hall](#); [Laura Koval](#); [Dustin Trotter](#)
Subject: Letter to council
Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 10:19:47 PM

Hello [Mayor and](#) City Council members.

I am Terri Skelly, and I am a parent of three young adult sons, who I am encouraging to get a good education and jobs in these confusing times.

[Please oppose any idea of having marijuana businesses in Santee.](#)

I wonder if we all really comprehend what would be the consequences of the having marijuana storefronts in town, with its pervasive signage and advertising. This visibility and promotion - threatens, sabotages, and diverts the lives of young people who may well decide that an acceptable form of relaxation, diversion or digression, is getting high.

Please do not move forward with bringing marijuana businesses forward. If a ballot initiative does come your way, every city that counters it with a strong campaign against the initiative succeeded in prevailing with a win. Only those cities that waffled and did not respond lost that battle. But even then by a small margin. Santee CAN find the battle.

Thank you.

Terri-Ann Skelly
