

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

FROM: Annette Ortiz, CMC, City Clerk

DATE: August 24, 2022

**SUBJ: Updated Council Meeting Materials – August 24, 2022**

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:**

The attached correspondence for Non-Agenda Public Comment was received and is provided for your consideration.



**From:** [Peggy Walker](#)  
**To:** [Clerk Info](#)  
**Subject:** For Council meeting  
**Date:** Monday, August 15, 2022 5:16:38 PM

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City Clerk, please distribute to the Mayor and Council and read aloud at the upcoming council meeting. Thank you.

**RE: Cannabis Regulations Inadequate Given Rising Health Risks of High-Potency Products**

By [University of Southern California Schaeffer Center](#), July 18, 2022

Dear Mayor and Council,

A new USC Schaeffer Center [white paper](#) shows state-level cannabis regulations have weak public health parameters, leaving consumers vulnerable.

The study suggests policymakers should consider regulations that place caps on the amount of THC allowed in products sold in the marketplace and placing purchase limits on popular high-potency cannabis products, like edibles and vape cartridges, as done abroad.

“Allowing the industry to self-regulate in the U.S. has generated products more potent and diverse than in other countries and has led to a variety of youth-oriented products, including cannabis-infused ice cream, gummies and pot tarts,” says [Rosalie Liccardo Pacula](#), a senior fellow at the USC Schaeffer Center. “Current state regulations are *inadequate* for protecting vulnerable populations who are more susceptible to addiction and other harm.”

High-potency products have been linked to short-term memory and coordination issues, impaired cognitive functions, cannabis hyperemesis syndrome, psychosis, and increased risks of anxiety, depression and dependence when used for prolonged periods. Acute health effects associated with high-potency products include unexpected poisonings and acute psychosis.

Policies should discourage excessive cannabis use, according to Pacula and her colleagues. Product innovation within the legal cannabis industry has outpaced state regulations and our knowledge of health impacts of adult-use cannabis.

Please see the full article: <https://healthpolicy.usc.edu/article/cannabis-regulations->

[inadequate-given-rising-health-risks-of-high-potency-products/](#)

*USC School of Pharmacy*

*Regards,*

*Peggy Walker*

Board Member

Coastal Communities Drug Free Coalition

**From:** [REDACTED]

**To:** [Clerk Info](#)

**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.....PLEASE INCLUDE IN PACKET OR READ AT MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 5:42:04 AM

Good Evening City Council,

Earlier this week, Monitoring the Future, an important national survey of substance use patterns especially for youth, released new data which can be found at <https://news.umich.edu/marijuana-hallucinogen-use-at-all-time-high-among-young-adults/>. Of greatest concern to me as a parent, grandparent and one who has served on many youth oriented boards, is that marijuana use is continuing to increase in young adults and adults. Since 2011, both age categories have noticed that daily use (20 or more occasions in the past 30 days) has nearly doubled. Young adults are using at the highest rate since 1988.

The survey reported daily marijuana use has reached the highest levels ever recorded since Monitoring the Future first was monitored. In 2021, it showed 29 percent of young adults reported using daily compared to 21% in 2016 and 17% in 2011. Daily marijuana use also significantly increased during these time periods, reported by 11% of young adults in 2021, a significant increase from 8% in 2016 and 6% in 2011.

Once again, daily use is now rising reversing previous declines. Also increasing is binge drinking and hallucinogen use making it clear that cannabis is not "replacing" alcohol in the substance world - some sell legalization to policymakers implying that "safe natural cannabis" will replace alcohol use.

Please consider what marijuana use means to our youth and young adults.

Diane Grace

Parent and Grandparent

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**From:** [Kathleen Lippitt](#)  
**To:** [John Minto](#); [Ronn Hall](#); [Laura Koval](#); [Rob McNelis](#)  
**Cc:** [Clerk Info](#)  
**Subject:** Santee City Council - Aug 24, 2022 - comment submitted  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 4:24:42 PM

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Good evening Mayor and City Council members,

My name is KL. Although I'm a public health practitioner by education, my concerns go beyond public drug policies to how our drug policy decisions today will impact the youth of tomorrow; our children, grandchildren and beyond. The harms to future generations by allowing the cultivation, manufacturing and/or sale of a harmful and potentially addictive drug like high THC marijuana is a price we should never be willing to pay in exchange for marijuana revenues. Marijuana policies throughout California increasingly resemble a drug industry playbook for how to grow profits from growing the prevalence of high risk use and addiction. These policies are ostensibly by local electeds. When in truth they closely resemble marijuana industry policies by proxy.

Santee's homepage speaks volumes about the influence the marijuana industry has had on Santee. The transition from standing firm to protecting adolescents, young adults, families, sensitive uses, community friendly businesses, and youth-serving organizations is appearing to weaken with the on-going lobbying and influence by marijuana interests.

Cannabis Business Information is prominently displayed on the city's website front page. That is not a good look for a community friendly city. It was disheartening has a greater obligation to provide counter messaging of public health, emergency room voices, addiction medicine experts, and youth serving organizations that is free of economic conflicts of interest about the associated public health and safety harms that have continued to accumulate since the industry's political influence with public electeds and state and local regulatory agencies has grown. This information to inform the public is more important now than ever.

Santee's adolescents and young adults will see the city's decision to draft a marijuana ordinance as the first step toward allowing commercial marijuana businesses into their community-friendly city. The industry will continue to message that the high THC products they sell are neither dangerous nor harmful. The normalization, promotion and use of marijuana will undermine the capacity for living healthy lifestyles that allow them to live their best lives.

We are in the middle of a mental health crisis and a drug overdose epidemic. Addiction is an adolescent on-set disease most commonly stemming from the early initiation of products that harm adolescent brain development; alcohol and especially THC products like vapes and edibles. These are the products that often begin an addiction journey, the

same products that will become more accessible and available with marijuana shops. With addiction will come a growth in the number of individuals who will engage in dysfunctional coping skills by self-medicating with harmful drugs like marijuana and alcohol instead of choosing healthy behaviors such as exercising, hiking, volunteer work, community service art and/or music.

We will not stem the epidemic of fentanyl overdose deaths by prescribing or handing out naloxone. Providing drug treatment will not prevent the harms already done to addicts, their families or their communities. Treatment and harm reduction strategies should never be substituted for robust primary prevention strategies. Addressing the environment and community messages young people are exposed to will influence their future drug decisions. Don't make the job of parenting in your communities more difficult by permitting the sale of a potentially harmful and addictive drug. And don't send mixed use messages about marijuana to the teens of Santee with an ordinance that will increase the availability, access, use and normalization of high THC products.

Thank you,

Kathleen

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*Kathleen M. Lippitt, MPH*

*Public Health Practitioner*

*e-mail:* [REDACTED]

*cell:* [REDACTED]