

December 4, 2014

Sara L. Rosene
Grand County Clerk and Recorder

Received
12/8/14
Bloune

Dear Sara,

This letter is to express our opposition to the approval of the medical and retail marijuana license applications submitted by Igadl Ltd dba Igadl. We are residents at 123 County Road 526 in Tabernash and our property falls within the one thousand foot proximity to the proposed location at 72399 US Highway 40, Unit B in Tabernash.

Please allow me to describe my background as it relates to our opposition. I am a 29 year professional firefighter with the Westminster Fire Department. During my tenure I have had the opportunity to see, first hand, the effect that marijuana has on our residents and society. The recent passage of Amendment 64 in Colorado has resulted in an exponential increase in marijuana related issues that require emergency medical services (EMS) intervention. In a nutshell, our call load as it relates to marijuana related medical problems has increased greatly since the beginning of retail sales of marijuana.

Examples of the types of marijuana related calls that we have seen increase in Westminster include driving under the influence of drugs (and related traffic accidents), assaults related to the possession and transfer of marijuana and overdoses in all demographic and age categories. One area that we have noticed the largest number of EMS responses is in people who visit our state to sample the marijuana products that they can legally purchase. I am not sure whether they are used to using lower quality, home grown marijuana but when they try the highly refined products which are available here their bodies react, requiring EMS response and transport to a hospital for treatment. Grand County has a seasonally transient population and I fear that this trend would increase the need for EMS and hospital services there too.

Proponents of marijuana, including a recent widely reported statement by Oregon Representative Earl Blumenauer, will tell you that the use of marijuana causes no deaths or other measurable medical problems. Please allow me to explain how these people are able to make those statements. Fire and EMS providers are required to report our activities to the various levels of government through standardized reporting systems. These systems collect statistical information, which is tabulated and used for many different purposes. One purpose that marijuana proponents utilize this information for is to defend their position that marijuana is a benign drug. The reason that they are able to make these statements and support them with statistical information is that there is no mechanism to collect information on whether a drug caused or contributed to the incident.

The NEMSIS (National Emergency Medical Services Information System) and NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) which all fire and EMS agencies are required to report to and comply with has no data reporting or collection vehicle available to report whether a certain incident was caused by or contributed to by drugs or alcohol. When we complete a report we can write a complete narrative of the events and treatment rendered during a medical incident. Those narratives are used by the receiving hospitals or agency medical directors to evaluate the quality of care that was provided. As far as the national reporting systems there are no check or drop down boxes in the reporting systems that allow for the collection of drug related information that would be collected for statistical analysis. The national reporting systems do not collect or analyze these narratives.

Amendment 64 will cost every community tax dollars in social and healthcare costs. I beg you to consider the additional costs that having a large-scale marijuana grow, processing and retail business inside our community will cause. My family and neighbors deserve to live in a safe community. Having a large scale marijuana outlet that is so close to our homes would reduce that safety level. I also fear that the entrance and exit into this facility would be a danger point since it abuts directly to Highway 40. We are also concerned about the use of our tax dollars to support the additional level of services that are and would be required to respond to marijuana related incidents.

Please consider this information when you are making your decision whether or not to approve these applications.

Sincerely,

Emery Haze

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emery Haze". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.