


From: Leanne Harvey <lharvey.pmp@gmail.com>

To: GrandClerk@co.grand.co.us

Date: 02/17/2016 02:22 PM

Attachments:  [No to pot shops.pdf](#) (30 kB)

Subject: **Protest of applications for medical and/or retail marijuana stores**

Ms. Rosene,

Please accept this email as my **protest** to any and all applications for cannabis-related businesses in Grand Lake, Colorado. This includes, but is not limited to, including retail stores for cannabis products, medical marijuana products, or facilities intended to grow, produce or warehouse such products.

My family currently owns property in the Lyons Homestead development near the city of Grand Lake, and we are strongly opposed to such businesses. I have done a lot of research to understand the pros and cons for cannabis products, and I am convinced that it would be detrimental to permit such businesses in the Grand Lake area. I have prepared a one-page summary of facts from reputable sources that I am sharing with my neighbors. I am attaching that fact sheet for your consideration.

I understand that you currently have applications for cannabis businesses along Hwy 34. I further understand that some applicants are holding open houses, etc. to tout the "benefits" of such establishments to local areas. I believe counter arguments can be made to all of their so-called "benefits," and many of those arguments are included in the attached file.

I respectfully ask that you do **NOT** approve any application for cannabis stores, warehouses, greenhouses, etc. in the Grand Lake area.

I will not be able to attend the public hearings for these applications, but please include my concerns in your deliberations over such applications. If you would like to speak to me directly about my concerns, you can reach me at this email address or on my mobile phone at 214-274-4747.

Sincerely,
Leanne Harvey

Why we don't want pot shops in Grand Lake

In August 2014, the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area provided the following executive summary for its 166-page report* entitled "The Legalization of Marijuana in Colorado: The Impact":

1. The majority of DUI drug arrests involve marijuana, and 25 to 40 percent were marijuana alone.
2. In 2012, 10.47 percent of Colorado youth ages 12 to 17 were considered current marijuana users compared to 7.55 percent nationally. Colorado ranked fourth in the nation and was 39 percent higher than the national average.
3. Drug-related student suspensions/expulsions increased 32 percent from school years 2008-09 through 2012-13, the vast majority were for marijuana violations.
4. In 2012, 26.81 percent of college age students were considered current marijuana users compared to 18.89 percent nationally, which ranks Colorado third in the nation and 42 percent above the national average.
5. In 2013, 48.4 percent of Denver adult arrestees tested positive for marijuana, which is a 16 percent increase from 2008.
6. From 2011 through 2013 there was a 57 percent increase in marijuana-related emergency room visits.
7. Hospitalizations related to marijuana increased 82 percent since 2008. This includes, but is not limited to "edibles"-related injuries and burns from THC extraction lab explosions.

Other facts that can be found in the report include:

- Deaths involving drivers who tested positive for THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, increased from 55 in 2013 to 79 in 2014.
- From 2013 through the first 6 months of 2014, in Colorado there were 38 confirmed THC extraction lab explosions and 45 reported injuries. The number of confirmed explosions in just six months of 2014 more than doubled the total reported in 2013. And these numbers only include *reported* lab explosions—there is no way of knowing the *actual* number of explosions and/or fires. Some burn victims required skin grafts to recover from their injuries.
- Some proponents of the marijuana industry claim that, since marijuana retail stores began on January 1, 2014, the crime rate in Denver has decreased. They compared January to June 2013 to the same time period in 2014. Actually, reported crime in Denver increased 6.7 percent during that time period. There was a 2.1 percent increase in violent crimes and a 1.3 percent climb in property crimes.
- There are some who have theorized that legalizing marijuana would reduce alcohol consumption. Thus far that theory is not supported by the data.

The following additional information can be found in the 6/6/2015 *Newsweek* article by Marjorie Haun entitled "THE UNEXPECTED SIDE EFFECTS OF LEGALIZING WEED":

- In 2014 and 2015, nearly \$6 million in pot revenues had been distributed to local governments. However, the cost of increased law enforcement, drugged-driving incidents, fatal crashes, loss of productivity and a huge spike in gang-related crime bring into question the cost-benefit of those dollars.
- The notion that prisons filled with minor drug offenders would be relieved of overcrowding—a selling point of legalizing marijuana—has been blown to smithereens.
- Denver's homeless population has exploded since Amendment 64 went into effect.
- There are indications that finite tourist dollars are going more to pot and less to Colorado's iconic natural wonders.

* The full report can be viewed at

<http://www.rmhidta.org/html/August%202014%20Legalization%20of%20MJ%20in%20Colorado%20the%20Impact.pdf>.