

Lauren Davidson

From: Perry Huston
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 4:02 PM
To: Angela Hubbard; Lauren Davidson
Subject: FW: Zoning Code Change - Marijuana sites

From: James Dale Harvey [<mailto:jdaleharvey@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2016 3:02 PM
To: Perry Huston
Subject: Zoning Code Change - Marijuana sites

Okanagon County Planning Commission

Perry Huston, Planning Director:

My wife and I are new to the county and have been here since the end of December. We attended the planning commission meeting in Okanagon on Monday the 28th and left the meeting with some concerns. It is obvious that the issue surrounding marijuana cultivation is a really hot issue and one that has many people concerned. I think there are good reasons for people feeling this way.

We intend to make Oroville our home since I retired and would like to express some of our concerns as new residents in the county.

We will not be able to attend the rescheduled meeting on the 11th of April as we will be out of town. So we want to use this means of identifying some of the items that we feel need to be considered regarding future marijuana grows in the county.

- **Inspectors** - the state of Washington has added the responsibility for monitoring the production, processing and retail sales of Marijuana to the **Washington State Liquor Control Board**. In the meeting on Monday, one of the speakers said there was not enough agents in the area to adequately monitor all liquor sales and Marijuana facilities in the area. If we are lacking enforcement personnel at the present time it would be compounding the problem to allow more licenses to be issued. The **State Liquor Control Board** has a lot of responsibility in regulating and monitoring the marijuana grows according to I-502. Having read I-502, the issues surrounding marijuana installations and compliance with the law are extensive.
- **Location** - 502 states -

8) The state liquor control board shall not issue a license for any premises within one thousand feet of the perimeter of the grounds of any elementary or secondary school, playground, recreation center or facility, child care center, public park, public transit center, or library, or any game arcade admission to which is not restricted to persons aged twenty-one years or older.

I would propose that the interpretation of this be expanded for the following reasons. A large portion of Okanagon county is a summer playground especially along waterways - rivers and lakes. Many people have invested in summer homes that are outside of townships or cities and are not recognized as parks. The investment in these areas is

considerable and brings a significant amount of revenue to the county. These investments should be protected if we want to continue seeking outside revenue to come to the county.

A second consideration for location should be the proximity of the existing fruit industry. Okanagon county farmers have worked hard and invested a large quantity of money to develop the quality of the orchards and the fruit that is grown. The qualifications for organic farming is very strict to the point that farmers are required to document the amount of time a tractor may be operating in the orchards. Research should be performed that would determine the effect of odors and pollen from the marijuana grows will affect the existing fruit farms. I mention this because I know that quality / flavors of certain crops can be influenced by odors in the air.

- One proposal would be to limit the grows to large tracts of property, even though the grows are limited in size depending on requirements of Tier 1, 2 or 3. A large tract of land would not allow the grow to be close to any other facility if requirements were made concerning placement of the grow inside the property.
- A second proposal would be to prevent any grows in suburban or high density areas or within a minimum of 1000 feet of these areas.

The participants in the meeting last Monday appeared to show respect for all of the speakers (at least the ones that spoke while I was in the meeting) which I appreciated. One thing that I did notice was opposition to any type of control that was being proposed. (The opposition was manifested using red or green cards.) The speakers that had something to say concerning more enforcement, cleanup of existing areas or proposing some reason for further delay in issuing more licenses were opposed by a large majority of the attendees. This desire for a lack of control bothered me.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

James D. Harvey