

Lauren Davidson

From: Perry Huston
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 12:01 PM
To: Angela Hubbard; Lauren Davidson
Subject: FW: Marijuana Zoning

From: Lesa Eiffert [mailto:lesaeiffert@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 5:28 PM
To: Sheilah Kennedy; Jim DeTro; Ray L. Campbell; Perry Huston
Subject: Marijuana Zoning

Lesa Eiffert
PO Box 1688
Omak, WA 98841

Dear Planning Commission;

I want to thank you for the work that has been done to add Marijuana to Okanogan Counties Zoning Codes and including the Conditional Use Permit portion for Marijuana Producers, Processors, and Retail Stores. This letter is regarding the County Commissioners requesting a hearing with the planning department regarding conditional use permits for marijuana producers, processors, and retail stores.

I was not able to attend the meeting on 3/28/16 due to illness and I hope you will still accept this letter as a citizen of Okanogan County. I have read and heard about the bullying, harassing, and imitating behavior by members of the audience at the last meeting and the use of red and green cards to express displeasure or support for the speakers and I do not feel comfortable subjecting myself to that type of behavior so please accept this letter.

Residents of Okanogan County should be given the opportunity to provide input as to whether they want a marijuana producer, processor, retail stores in their neighborhood. There may be some people that do find the increase in traffic and odor as a positive environment to live. I know I would not

want that as my neighbor. Non marijuana users should also have the right to breath fresh clean air similar to those rights of non tobacco smokers and those that are highly sensitive to breathing cologne or perfume. Businesses, work places, schools, and government offices have adopted rules related to scent free (perfume/cologne) and tobacco and drug free rules. A person should also have the right to experience those rights at their own home and property. I have been lucky so far in the neighborhood that I live in not having a marijuana business next door but without the Conditional Use Permits my home and property could be imposed upon by tall fences ruining my beautiful view, an increase in traffic, the smell of marijuana, and worrying about the affects of pesticides and more that is used on marijuana and how it might affect my garden and vegetables that I grow, my fruit trees, my chickens, my peacocks, my baby chicks, my water supply, my cats, my dog, and more.

I read in the paper about several people that were apparently not supporting the Conditional Use Permit because they felt that it has been beneficial to the community because it has created more work and thus jobs and money. This may be true that more jobs have been created to support the production, growing, and selling of marijuana but the same does not stand true for addressing the damage that it has done. In my work as a Student Assistance Specialist providing drugs and alcohol prevention and intervention at Omak Middle School and Omak High School my work has also increased as well. The number of students that I provide individual drug/alcohol services has increased since the legalization of marijuana in 2012 by 55.88 percent. I find that to be very heart breaking to have such an increase since the legalization of marijuana. These students are either using drugs or are being affected by someone else's drug use. Unlike the businesses in our community there is not a profit that is seen in our community by our children being affected this way. This increase also increases their mental health problems, academic failure, chemical dependency, incarceration and more.

Marijuana producers, marijuana processors, and marijuana retail stores, money does not benefit these Okanogan County students. These students get

less than what they deserve and need. There is no extra marijuana money that comes to get more help to work with these students.

I tried to read down the list of different types of businesses in the county that have conditional use permits. There were over 90 businesses that currently have Conditional Use Permits. Why would marijuana businesses not be included in that list? Is not a marijuana business more of a county health and safety issue than a Bed and Breakfast?

Please think of more than just the financial gains for some. Also remember what I remember and still have in my neighborhood living in Okanogan County, that you help your neighbors and you do what you think is respectful to your neighbor. In my neighborhood I have shared my fruit and vegetables and things I have canned. My neighbors have helped me clean gutters, feed animals when I am out of town, built my fence, shown me how to fix pipe and we all watched out for each other during the fires. I know that all seems silly maybe to all of you, but isn't that the type of neighborhoods we want where we care for and take care of each other. Conditional Use Permits help people be good neighbors.

Please add Conditional Use Permits to Marijuana businesses in Okanogan County.

Sincerely,

Lesia Eiffert

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)