

**ORDINANCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 6, 2022, 5:30 P.M.
Meeting Room 3, Lower Level
Bristol Public Library, 5 High St., Bristol, CT**

ATTENDEES: Susan Tyler, Cheryl Thibeault, Jacqueline Olsen

ABSENT: - - -

STAFF PRESENT: Thomas Conlin, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Jeffrey Caggiano, Mayor
Jason Welch, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Noelle Bates, Recording Secretary

COUNCIL MEMBER: ---

1. The Ordinance Committee Public Hearing was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Chairwoman Tyler.

Chairwoman Tyler read into the record the rules of the Public Hearing.

Dr. William Petit, 132 Redstone Hill Road, Plainville, CT expressed concerns about health consequences; 1) the impact THC has on brain development under the age of 25. 2) Real addiction possibilities 3) Development of mental illnesses is at a higher risk 4) increase in mental illness with individuals who already have mental illnesses and 5) increase in motor vehicles accidents and increased fatalities.

Todd Sturgeon, 24 Concetta Lane, Bristol CT stated he is a Commissioner on the Board of Education and he is opposed to recreational use of marijuana as it is a gateway drug. It causes delusions, anxiety and panic attacks.

Deputy Chief Matt Moskowitz, 131 North Main Street, read a letter from Bristol Chief Brian Gould. Attached is a copy of the letter for reference.

Sabrina Janco, 765 Farmington Avenue, Bristol, CT. She addressed concerns that the establishment is too close to Giamatti Little League Center.

Pastor Todd Williams voiced his opposition to a cannabis facility stating that marijuana use has increased from 6% to 18% in young children. It is a gateway drug.

Cindy LaMarre, 301 Old Orchard Road, is opposed to the selling of recreational cannabis in Bristol.

Marion Cockayne, 93 Tuttle Road, Bristol, CT is opposed to the selling of recreational cannabis in Bristol. We also have a medical marijuana facility in town. The City has a \$2 million dollar budget and do we really need that extra tax money? Why can't this issue be put on the November ballot and vote on it?

Ben Kimbro, 401 S. Boston Avenue, Tulsa, OK, Senior Director of Public Affairs for Trulieve. He wanted to make it clear that Trulieve is trying to address a land use objective in Bristol Zoning Code. He was elected to the Tulsa City Council to write the amendments to their land use zoning code for cannabis use. He understands the difficult choices the Ordinance Committee is facing. He supports the ordinance as it is crafted. He doesn't want to see a proliferation of cannabis dispensaries in any city. It's not healthy for the economy. He agrees with the 5 concerns that were brought up by Dr. Petit. Trulieve is just trying to be responsible and run a business in Bristol.

Kristin Bevins, 41 Leon Road, Bristol, CT stated that she was opposed to recreational marijuana. She is not against medical marijuana, just recreational marijuana. The way the Ordinance is written, it will allow a dispensary to open just 250 feet away from a school and that's not ok.

Brianna Tirado, 421 Leon Road, Bristol, CT requested her letter be read by Kristen Bevins. Brianna stated that she was opposed to the sale of recreational marijuana. Growing up she was taught that all drugs were bad for you and not to use it unless medically necessary. By selling it here in Bristol, we are telling kids it's ok.

Jennifer Van Gorder, 272 Candlewood Drive, discussed when she was a young mother and there was a debate on whether a K-8 school was a good idea. That discussion was that they didn't belong in school together, they didn't belong on the bus together; it just wasn't a good idea. Fast forward and we are getting rid of the K-8 model because it didn't work. There are a lot of concerns that if we moved forward with this, it can't be undone. She feels that we should slow down, see what goes on with the rest of the state and reconsider it at a later date. We can take away the K-8s, but we can't take away retail marijuana once we get it started.

Roberta Allain, 514 Pine Street, Bristol, CT stated that her sister works as a drug and alcohol counselor at a prison. The inmates told her that the marijuana these days is far stronger than it ever use to be. She agrees with what everyone else said.

Mary Fortier, 163 Goodwin Street, Bristol, CT stated that she was focusing on the Ordinance as it was written which suggests that we could have up to 2 facilities in Bristol if they were approved and appropriate. Much of what is written in the Ordinance is already covered in the State law. The issue of where a cannabis facility could be in certain zoning districts, personally should have come before the Zoning Board and not necessarily be part of the Ordinance. Because for a business that might be trying to open up a facility in the future, would be looking to the Zoning Regulations to figure out where they might be able to put that facility, not in an Ordinance. While she is in favor of the business zones that have been chosen for allowing a cannabis facility, she is not sure that belongs in an Ordinance. Once you have applied to the State and gotten approved, the Ordinance states that you need to go to the City Council to get approved. She doesn't think that the City Council has to power to determine what businesses can or cannot be here the way this Ordinance is written. The State has put limits on the number of facilities you could have in town. The State will re-evaluate this in the future and more could be allowed. This Ordinance is restrictive so it wouldn't ever be more than two unless Bristol's population changed dramatically. The Ordinance also states that if a facility's license is revoked it would have to go before the City Council. The City Council would have no authority to give an unlicensed facility the right to operate. She also stated that a facility could appeal to the Finance Board and she sees no authority where the Finance Board can do that. Also the last section talks about fines and said that the City has no authority to impose fines as it is already illegal by the State.

Ann Mungen Chrystal, 71 Eugene Avenue, Bristol, CT stated that she is against legalizing recreational cannabis. She is concerned for her children and grandchildren.

Matt Huston, 57 Ingraham Street, Bristol, CT stated that Bristol is the 19th City he's lived in across 9 states, including Colorado, and Bristol is his favorite. Since buying his house in 2017 he's seen a lot of changes, a lot of new construction and revitalization happening, a new weed store and a new Mayor. He has many friends still alive today because weed has helped them process what they went through in the service. The best thing we can do is bring weed out of the black market and into the light.

Gary Steck, 61 Rambler Street, Bristol, CT stated he is speaking as a licensed marriage therapist and he runs a large recovery center. This is a quality of life issue and he strongly urges that Ordinances be passed that there be no recreational marijuana sold in the City. He believes it is a dangerous, additive product when THC is manipulated and he has yet to meet someone in his recovery center that never used this product. He encouraged people to speak their minds before it's too late.

Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano, 27 Cricket Hill Road, Bristol, CT thanked everyone for coming out and speaking. He realizes that this is an emotional and social issue. He doesn't want to get too far on either side but he thinks the Ordinance Committee has an extremely difficult job to do.

He spoke to Gerri Ann Bradley and went to three medical marijuana dispensaries in Connecticut and several in Massachusetts that are called hybrid. He wanted to make sure that people knew we have a medical dispensary here in Bristol called the Healing Corner. We have been serving medical patients with severe illnesses such as cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, and more. He has not heard one person speak against the medical marijuana dispensary.

He stated that the State legislation created a law that allows medical dispensaries to become hybrid dispensaries (retail/medical). The fact is that our medical marijuana sales has plateaued and many of these people will not go through the extra added burden of paying \$125 annually to their doctor and \$100 for their medical marijuana card to continue to get their medical marijuana.

To Mary's point, he wants the Committee to focus on simplifying the language. People have talked about distances from schools and smoking in public. He asked them to stay focused on retail cultivators and maybe the rest could be left for another day.

He made was that the way the language currently reads, could be interpreted that we can have up to 9 retail stores here. He support a hybrid facility with a pharmacist on board to serve our medical marijuana patients.

Former Representative Whit Betts, 1924 Perkins Street, Bristol, CT stated that he agrees with the audience and he is annoyed with our State Legislature. In his judgment, this issue is very premature. The State legislature had a number of hearings on this over several years and some very valid questions have been raised. But, the proponents have ignored or have not answered them. At the same time, the FDA will not approve it. This isn't right to put this on the towns when it is so premature. The whole issue is about money. If you want to become a licensee and get a permit, it will cost you \$1 million. The State knows that there is a high demand and they will reap the profits.

Faye Duquette, 6 Apple Road, Bristol, CT stated that she is opposed to the sale of recreational marijuana as it is a gateway drug and leads to increase stress on the hospital system and will increase DUIs.

Sharon Lavertu, 46 Kenney Street state that she is opposed to the sale of recreational marijuana as she is hearing from family members that underage kids from other towns are talking about coming to Bristol.

Andrew Collins, 155 Redstone Hill Road, Apt. 184, Bristol, CT stated that he is in favor of the sale of recreational marijuana as he thinks it's a good business economic opportunity. He respects the concerns people have about the developing mind of children. Smoking, cigars, vaping are already out there. Marijuana will be just like beer or wine.

Linda Breault, 9 Fox Den Road, Bristol, CT disagrees with Mr. Collins and is opposed to the recreational use of marijuana.

Andrew Rasmussen-Tuller, 75 Sturbridge Court encouraged the Committee to take a global look at this issue. He talked about other avenues the City could take such as bringing in micro-cultivators, product packaging plants, job growth for biologists and chemists.

Russell Andrews, 93 Wolcott Road, Bristol, CT read a letter from the Board of Education Commissioners and that they take a unified position that they are opposed to the retail sale for recreational marijuana as it would have unintended consequences to the students.

Greg Hahn, 145 Redwood Drive, Bristol, CT. He spoke in support of Bristol having the medical marijuana dispensaries and urged the Committee to focus on their charge. Back a decade ago when the medical marijuana dispensary opened, the owners went through site plan and the zoning review process to assess the appropriateness of the site. That process worked and should be what we do. Trulieve did not create any ill effects in any

neighborhoods. If you visit the frequently asked questions about cannabis on the State of Connecticut's website, it refers you to municipal zoning regulations.

He believes the Land Use Commission and the professional staff at the City are better equipped to make these evaluations than is a political sub-division of the City Council without the experience. People have spoken about the financials. It does create \$300,000 to \$500,000 in the City and that should be an issue for the Board of Finance.

Regulating legal businesses, curbing vaping in our schools, regulating smoke and vape products and open communication with our children should be our top priorities.

Peter DelMastro, 9 Chimney Crest Lane, stated his opposition for the sale of recreational marijuana. He stated that they State passed this because the State has an insatiable appetite for money and he feels that this is morally wrong.

Tina Matthews, 23 Adler Street, Bristol, CT stated that she is not against medical marijuana prescribed by a doctor but she is opposed to the recreational sale. The bottom line is about the money and money is the root of all evil. She has concerns that it leads to other drugs and there will be increased motor vehicle accidents.

Amanda Labbe, 129 Birch Street, Bristol, CT stated that she is the dispensary pharmacist at Truelieve/Healing Corner for the past 7 years. She stated that the facility has 21 staff members, 11 of which are from Bristol. Truelieve has changed the lives of thousands of patients. They give back to the community by donating to events in town such as the Shamrock Run and others. She disagrees that marijuana is a gateway drug.

Margy Moska, 63 Yarde Drive, Bristol, CT stated she is opposed to the recreational sale of marijuana and wanted to get clarification that Truelieve does medical marijuana and not recreational marijuana.

Jane Glasgow, 47 Medford Street, Bristol, CT stated that she has been a nurse for 50 years and she is in favor of the sale of recreational marijuana. She stated that medical marijuana has helped her with her ailments. She feels the bigger problem is alcohol and vaping stores.

Ken Glasgow, 47 Medford Street, Bristol, CT stated that he was also in favor of the sale of recreational marijuana. He has been a patient of Truelieve since 2017 and has never seen any problems at their location.

John Pompei, 63 Yarde Drive, Bristol, CT stated that kids know how to get around things and if they are going to access it, they will. We need to educate the kids and put fear into them about the use of drugs.

Collin Pearson, 125 Redwood Drive, Bristol, CT stated that marijuana is already here and he is in favor of the sale of recreational marijuana.

Chad Simard, 588 Burlington Avenue, Bristol, CT stated that there were other ancillary business the City could do such as cultivators, micro-cultivators, packaging and that City development should be the focus.

Dave Carello, 31 Glendale Drive, Bristol, CT stated he was a police officer for 27 years and he saw the dangers of drug, alcohol and tobacco use. He is not against medical marijuana but is against recreational.

Tim Gamache, 1389 Stafford Avenue, Bristol, CT. He is not opposed to medical marijuana but is opposed to recreational.

Jennifer Fell, Wethersfield, CT is a member of the CT Cannabis Chamber of Commerce and thanked the audience members for doing their due diligence. She is in favor of the ordinance and said the City will receive 3% of the gross receipts for municipal programs and will create jobs. It will also increase values in the real estate market.

Tom Berrill, 498 East Road, Bristol, CT gave a history on the campaign of cannabis from the 70s. Marijuana is a gateway drug and this is a moral issue and we are making an immoral decision. He is opposed to the sale of recreational marijuana.

Debra Berrill, 498 East Road, Bristol, CT explained how marijuana was a gateway drug for her growing up and she lost 20 years of her life. She is opposed to the sale of recreational marijuana.

Councilwoman Thibeault read into the record correspondence from David Haberfeld which is attached to these minutes.

Councilwoman Olsen read into the record correspondence from Lorraine Croteau which is attached to these minute.

Chairwoman Tyler read into the record correspondence from Dr. Thomas Ward which is attached to these minutes.

Carole Zembko, 159 Ferraro Drive, Bristol, CT is a retired teacher who taught for 37 years and she remembers when DARE used to come into the schools. The police officers were so good with the kids and was always concerned about the kids going into Middle School that they would make the right choices. She is opposed to the sale of recreational marijuana.

Mel Bee, 35 Rustic Terrace, Bristol, CT read a text message from a friend, Nicky LaPort who stated she was disappointed with the legislature. She was a heroin user for 9 years until she got cleaned. Narcan had saved her life. She is in favor of the sale of recreational marijuana as it would be safer than what is on the streets.

Kristen Giantonio, 275 Allentown Road, Bristol, CT is worried about the impact on the children of the City. She doesn't want them to be the sacrificial lamb for economic development. She asked why the other towns said no? She is opposed to the sale of recreational marijuana.

Senator Henry Martin, 7 Ipswitch Road, Bristol, CT said he is against the retail and cultivation of recreational marijuana. The public's perception of it doesn't make it less harmless. There is an increase in suicidal attempt, psychosis, schizophrenia and it is damaging to brain development.

James Tremaglio, 13 Holt Street, Bristol, CT stated he was not in favor or against. He has his own personal experience with medical marijuana with PTSD from a car accident. He gave a general description of the medical dispensaries and how safe they are with guards and cameras.

Justin Bidwell, 106 Laurel Street, Apartment 2, Bristol, CT stated he believes there is a benefit from a medical marijuana card but is opposed to recreational. He stated how downtown is littered with syringe needles and homeless people. He lost his brother and many other people to drugs.

Steve Coan, 31 Main Street, Bristol, CT stated that he understands both sides. Connecticut is the most mismanaged state (top 5) and we are at the bottom of the economic indicator. Bristol has an image problem, we have for 20 years. We won't make our image any better by making marijuana recreational. He is in favor of medical but not recreational marijuana.

Camilla Lopez, 92 Tulip Street, Bristol, CT (Zoom) stated she was in favor of recreational use and said there are alternative options such as flowers and lotions.

Joseph Smith, 54 Silo Road, Bristol, CT stated that he was in favor of recreational marijuana and feels that we don't have enough to do in Bristol. He feels that the mom and pop shops will benefit from the sales.

Brittney Barney, (Zoom) stated that she is in support for allowing legal marijuana dispensaries and the sale of legal marijuana. The Police should be working on ways to test for marijuana in a DUI incident.

Jaalah Ramos, 119 Simpkins Drive, Bristol, CT stated that Bristol is an all heart city with family values. We should invest in our neighborhoods. The marijuana is going to make its way to minors.

Al Gyurko, 88 Fern Hill Road, Bristol, CT (Zoom), stated that the Committee needs to make an all heart decision and say no to recreational marijuana.

The Committee members then read into the record all the correspondence they received. All correspondence is attached to these minutes for review.

Kaitlyn Keller, 169 Gridley Street, Bristol, CT has been in recovery for 12 years and is a patient of Trulieve. Sobriety and medical marijuana saved her life. We need to get illegal drugs off the streets.

Derrick Jones, 45 Gina Street, Bristol, CT stated that he has been sober 8 years. He said it is easier to get hands on marijuana. Will adults be able to handle if an 8 year old takes a gummy and dies. We can't send a mixed message to our kids and the Committee needs to make the right choice.

The Public Hearing was closed at 9:08.

Respectfully submitted,
Noelle Bates
Recording Secretary



CHIEF OF POLICE
BRIAN J. GOULD
131 North Main Street
Bristol, Connecticut 06010

September 6, 2022

Dear Susan Tyler, Chair Ordinance Committee;

I have been contacted by members of our Community inquiring about the legal sales of recreational Cannabis within the City of Bristol. Specifically, how would this impact the Bristol Police Department. First and foremost, I believe that our Community should be heard. The Community as a whole should be given the opportunity to decide what is best for the City of Bristol. With that, I feel obligated to share some law enforcement concerns, so that our Community can make an informed decision. This commentary will be specific to the legal sale of recreational Cannabis within the City of Bristol.

First, some history. The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) represents over 7,000 law enforcement officers in Connecticut across more than 100 departments. The CPCA had opposed the legalization of Cannabis in Connecticut. "The main opposition to the bill revolved around the absence of a qualified road side testing of a motorist suspected to be under the influence of cannabinoids. While the presence of a police officer trained in Advanced Roadside Impairment Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) or the presence of a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) may potentially assist in the evaluation of a motorist, there is presently no legal device in which to test such operators. The DRE evaluation mentioned in this bill is a process which occurs after the arrest is made.

The dedicated law enforcement officers that fill our ranks throughout Connecticut are committed and determined to keep our roadways as safe as they possibly can. This bill, if passed, will diminish the safety of our roadways, while at the same time law enforcement is still dealing with the effects of the opioid crisis and the impact that has had on roadway and pedestrian safety.

In 2019, law enforcement officers in Connecticut made 8,465 arrests for drunk and drugged driving. In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, driving patterns by residents and traffic enforcement by departments was altered to reduce person to person exposure. CPCA believes that the number of drunk and drugged arrests will most likely increase if S.B. 888 were to pass.

CPCA is also concerned about how officers will respond to calls from citizens regarding quality of life issue for marijuana complaints if S.B. 888 were to pass. CPCA has also heard from groups around the state that are concerned with how law enforcement will deal with underage use of marijuana." (CPCA Written opposition quoted/cited).

This bill passed, however, the concerns for law enforcement remain, as there is still no roadside chemical test available to measure intoxication by cannabis in drivers. Citing our current CPCA President, Chief Neil Dryfe; "That remains a major concern of the Police Chiefs Association and its members – how are we going to properly identify and take the appropriate enforcement action against people we suspect are driving under the influence of cannabis, Dryfe said.

The training an officer has to receive to become a 'drug recognition expert,' is expensive.

"To Protect and Serve the Community with Integrity and Professionalism"

Dryfe added the legalization of marijuana in other states has not had much of an impact on illegal sales of cannabis. 'The costs of regulation and taxation make it a much more expensive product,' Dryfe said, prompting some consumers to turn to the illegal market. He said the association continues to be concerned about information that shows that accidental overdoses and fatal car accidents actually increased in other places that have legalized marijuana.

Some medical professionals have cited edibles as a problem, particularly for underage children who overeat because the effects don't kick in for a period of time. 'We have already seen a couple of incidents where school-aged children have gotten a hold of edibles and ingested them and had to be transported for medical attention,' Dryfe said, adding many medical professionals expressed concerns about the legislation." (<https://ctnewsjunkie.com/2022/05/13/cannabis-industry-representatives-see-opportunity-police-remain-skeptical/> quoted/cited).

Citing another news article; "Highway safety advocates warn that cannabis is playing an increased role in a growing number of traffic fatalities as Congress and more states consider legalizing recreational marijuana and edibles this fall. The report cites early projections from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that show the number of U.S. traffic deaths rose from 38,824 in 2020 to more than 42,000 in 2021 — the highest since 2007. Bruce Landsberg, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), an independent federal agency that investigates civil transportation accidents, said the legalization of cannabis is contributing to that rise.

'It's a problem. The legalization of all the different substances is outstripping our ability to keep up in testing for them,' Mr. Landsberg told The Washington Times in an interview. 'With alcohol, we have a very clearly defined standard, but we don't have that for opioids and cannabis.'" (<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/aug/1/safety-advocates-warn-cannabis-driven-spike-traffic/> quoted/cited).

Additionally, with some Towns such as Southington creating laws that prohibit the use of Cannabis in public, the concern for Bristol is increased traffic, if we were to become the destination for legal sale. This too, would be a challenge for the Bristol Police Department.

In conclusion, the Community of Bristol needs to be informed of the law enforcement challenges so they can make a reasonable and informed decision. I urge all to do as much research as possible before a final decision is made.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Brian J. Gould
Brian J. Gould
Chief of Police



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Agriculture

Cannabis Industry Representatives See Opportunity - Police Remain Skeptical

by **Julie Martin Banks**
May 13, 2022, 5:01 am



Workers cleaning buds at CTPharma (CTNewsJunkie / file photo)

With Connecticut now accepting applications for adult-use cannabis licenses, some within the industry say that the start of marijuana sales for recreational use could lead to tens of thousands of jobs, as well as potential for major increases in tax revenue.

However, members of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association said not much has been done to alleviate their concerns that serious problems will result.

Cannabis was approved for adult-use in June 2021, with recreational sales slated to begin in late 2022. The number of applications for the various types of licenses can be found [here](#). The figures are updated weekly.

According to updated data from the state Thursday morning, 26,052 lottery applications have been submitted for all eight cannabis business license categories – retailer, hybrid retailer, micro-cultivator, food and

beverage manufacturer, delivery service, product manufacturer, product packager and transporter.

Kaitlyn Krasselt, communications director with the state Department of Consumer Protection, said the applications will be reviewed, and those approved will receive provisional licenses to set up their businesses. A final license will be issued once the business is set up.

David Belsky, CEO and Founder of California-based FlowerHire, a cannabis recruiting agency that helps place candidates in executive-level cannabis jobs, said his company has helped nearly 1,000 people get hired within the industry in the last five years, with an average salary of \$140,000.

In addition to jobs, Belsky said in Connecticut, buildings that have been dormant for years can now have a purpose as they can be used to grow cannabis. Jobs can be created in addition to licensed operators, like selling goods and services to those operators, he said.

"When I look at job creation, yes, it brings more opportunity to elements of the workforce that haven't had that opportunity for quite some time – light industrial groups that have been left behind by globalization," Belsky said. "It's actually upper mobility."

Belsky pointed to the successes of other states who have approved recreational sales of marijuana.



Cannabis plants (CTNewsJunkie / photo)

In Colorado, sales of marijuana have reached \$2.2 billion in 2021 alone, with total sales hitting \$12.7 billion since marijuana sales started in January 2014. Tax revenue has reached more than \$2 billion since 2014.

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker's office has said that the cannabis industry has meant new jobs for around 15,000 residents of his state.

"Illinois makes more revenue from cannabis than alcohol," Belsky said.

However, Cheshire Police Chief Neil Dryfe, 1st Vice President of the CT Police Chiefs Association, said that group's concerns have not changed in the year since Gov. Ned Lamont signed the legislation in 2021. He said there is still no roadside chemical test available to measure intoxication by cannabis in drivers.

"That remains a major concern of the Police Chiefs Association and its members – how are we going to properly identify and take the appropriate enforcement action against people we suspect are driving under the influence of cannabis," Dryfe said.

The training an officer has to receive to become a "drug recognition expert," is expensive.

Dryfe added the legalization of marijuana in other states has not had much of an impact on illegal sales of cannabis.

"The costs of regulation and taxation make it a much more expensive product," Dryfe said, prompting some consumers to turn to the illegal market. He said the association continues to be concerned about information that shows that accidental overdoses and fatal car accidents actually increased in other places that have legalized marijuana.

Some medical professionals have cited edibles as a problem, particularly for underage children who overeat because the effects don't kick in for a period of time.

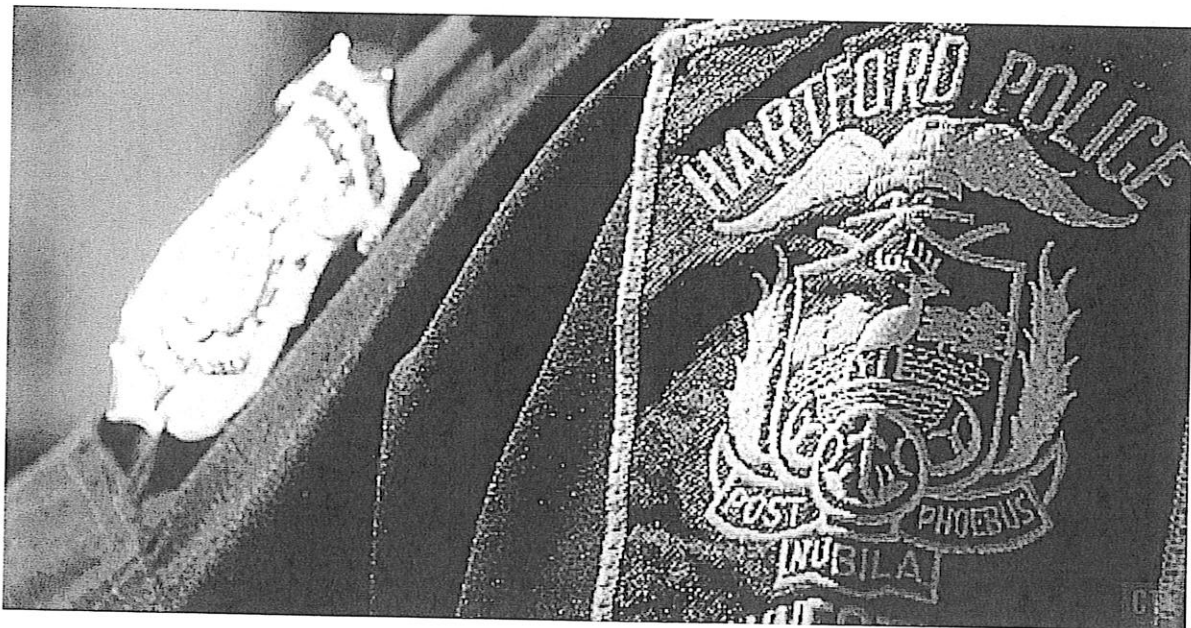


Image of a Hartford Police Department uniform patch

"We have already seen a couple of incidents where school-aged children have gotten a hold of edibles and ingested them and had to be transported for medical attention," Dryfe said, adding many medical professionals expressed concerns about the legislation.

Belsky said, while people should do their own research about the benefits or risks of cannabis, he believes there are ample benefits. Cannabis use for medical purposes has been legalized in 39 states and the District of Columbia. Adult use of marijuana is legal in DC and 18 states.

Belsky said marijuana can be used to treat pain, inflammation, hunger and sleep. While cannabis can be used recreationally, it doesn't have to mean people aren't functioning, Belsky said, as that market allows its users to understand more about what kind of dose they should use, and to get information so they can trust what they are putting into their bodies.

"It allows you to figure out how best to have cannabis serve you and sometimes in some circles, it ends up replacing things, replacing alcohol potentially," Belsky said. "One of the things that is for sure is it tends to be a safer form of recreation than other things and also may have less side effects than some pharmaceutical treatments for certain types of things like the ones I mentioned."

A 2021 paper, titled 'The Public Health Effects of Legalizing Marijuana,' explored previous studies surrounding the sale of recreational and medical marijuana and its impact on a variety of issues including youth, crime, mental health and traffic fatalities.

Most researchers seem to focus on the issue as it relates to youths using marijuana, according to the paper, written by D. Mark Anderson of the Department of Agricultural Economics & Economics at Montana State University, and Daniel I. Rees, of the Department of Economics at the University of Colorado at Denver.

While the authors found two studies that showed recreational marijuana sales had no effect on marijuana use by youths, one study did find that legalizing marijuana for recreational purposes was associated with a substantial increase in past month marijuana use among 12- through 17-year-olds. "As more states legalize marijuana for recreational purposes and more years of post-treatment data become available in the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys, Monitoring the Future, and National Survey on Drug Use and Health, a clearer picture will presumably emerge," the authors state.

Studies done also use different variables, resulting in different outcomes, according to the authors.

While one study found no evidence of impact on traffic fatalities in Colorado and Washington, another study found that Colorado did in fact see an increase. "As more years of Fatality Analysis Reporting System data are made available from other recreational marijuana states, we will undoubtedly learn more about RMLs (recreational marijuana laws) and road safety," the authors write.

Meanwhile, Dryfe said, the police and the Connecticut public will have to wait and see what happens when sales begin here, and be ready to respond by the legislature and law enforcement working together to make any necessary changes.

"That's our hope – that if there are any unforeseen negatives, that the legislature will be willing to revisit the statutes and adjust them if the evidence and the data points them in the direction that says, 'hey, this was an unforeseen consequence and we need to change it because it's putting people in danger'," Dryfe said.

He added that while officials are hoping for the best, it is prepared for the worst, including dealing with the potential for an increase in fatal accidents. "Because we deal with the families of the victims of those

incidents, we certainly would take no satisfaction in that coming to fruition."

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Pot use fueling rise in traffic fatalities, highway safety advocates warn



A customer displays some marijuana he just purchased at a RISE dispensary in Bloomfield, N.J., Thursday, April 21, 2022. Recreational sales of cannabis for adults 21 and older started Thursday, with the first alternative treatment centers opening at 6 a.m. ... more >

By Sean Salai - The Washington Times - Monday, August 1, 2022

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Highway safety advocates warn that cannabis is playing an increased role in



number of traffic fatalities as Congress and more states consider

Presidential records found right in Clinton's drawer
recreational marijuana and edibles this fall.



In a report released July 26 during a national impaired driving conference in Washington, the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA), Responsibility.org and the National Alliance to Stop Impaired Driving (NASID) called for a public education campaign to address the crisis.

The report cites early projections from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that show the number of U.S. traffic deaths rose from 38,824 in 2020 to more than 42,000 in 2021 — the highest since 2007.



Bruce Landsberg, vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety

Board (NTSB), an independent federal agency that investigates civil

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transportation accidents, said the legalization of cannabis is contributing to



Presidential records found right in Clinton's drawer



"It's a problem. The legalization of all the different substances is outstripping our ability to keep up in testing for them," Mr. Landsberg told The Washington Times in an interview. "With alcohol, we have a very clearly defined standard, but we don't have that for opioids and cannabis."

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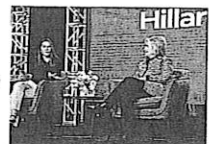
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Speaking at the NASID conference on Friday, Mr. Landsberg urged safety advocates to help government officials implement new administrative procedures, police training programs and computerized driver monitoring systems to address drug-impaired driving.

Cannabis, which lingers several days longer in the bloodstream than alcohol, defies existing roadside breathalyzer tests, often leaving police to discover its presence only after an arrest or death.

An October 2020 NHTSA report on trauma centers data found tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive compound in cannabis, in the systems of 33% of drivers involved in fatal crashes — up from 21% before the pandemic.

Have you already read these other top stories? The NHTSA report also found that cannabis has become more common than alcohol in the systems of drivers involved in fatal crashes, with 33% of drivers involved in fatal crashes found to have THC in their systems compared to 29% for alcohol.



the same time, the number of drivers in fatal crashes who tested positive for more than one impairing substance rose from 18% to 25%.

The 0.08% standard is the legal limit for alcohol in the bloodstream across most of the country, but few states have developed a legal limit for marijuana, in part because tolerance levels vary more widely.

Police must rely on roadside observations and a blood test or, in some states, a urine screen to confirm whether a suspect is arrested for driving under the influence of marijuana, which is illegal in all 50 states.

Darrin Grondel, a former Washington state highway patrol trooper and administrator who serves as director of NASID, said this lack of effective testing means many people don't grasp the dangers of smoking up and driving.

"We're seeing increases in fatal crashes that involve drug intoxication. Some states claim they haven't had an increase, but their toxicology labs will tell you they're not seeing a problem because they're not testing for it," Mr. Grondel said.

The former state trooper is calling on law enforcement agencies to update their officer training, hire more drug recognition experts and adopt oral fluid drug testing — which uses a sponge to soak up saliva — in roadside screenings.

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in pilot programs, helping officers overcome the reality that edibles do not
or and blood tests are too complex to administer on the road.



"Oral fluid testing gives you a 'yes' or 'no' for active impairment involving six to eight of the most prominent substances like cannabis, opioids and benzodiazepines," Mr. Grondel said.

Since Colorado and Washington became the first states to legalize recreational marijuana in 2012, 16 states and the District of Columbia have joined them. Several, including Maryland, will have legalization on the ballot in November.

Earlier this year, the Democratic-led House of Representatives passed a bill to legalize marijuana nationwide. But the legislation faces a higher bar in the evenly divided Senate, where Democrats unveiled their version of the bill on Thursday.

"We are seeing astronomical rates of marijuana-impaired driving crashes resulting in injuries and deaths in states like Colorado. That should be a flashing red light for Congress and the state legislatures," Jonathan F. Thompson, executive director of the National Sheriffs' Association, said in an email.

Officials at GHSA, a nonprofit representing the state offices that administer federal highway safety grants, said they hoped Friday's report would be a wake-up call to lawmakers.

"As legal cannabis use becomes more widespread in the U.S., motorists need to know the dangers of driving under the influence," GHSA Executive

~~Director Jonathan Adams said in a statement. But that message won't be~~

X



outdated, irrelevant or insulting to cannabis consumers."

Presidential records found right in Clinton's drawer



Changing cannabis users' attitudes about driving while high won't be easy, experts say.

According to a AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety survey, only 69% of Americans believe it is dangerous to drive within an hour of consuming cannabis, compared to 95% who find it extremely dangerous to drive while over the legal blood alcohol limit.

Some popular attitudes also reject widespread scientific evidence that cannabis impairs the parts of the brain responsible for attention, decision-making, coordination and reaction time while driving.

"I think a lot of people truly believe that driving while high makes them a better, slower, more cautious driver, and it's absolutely false," said Brian Swift, 61, NASID's national spokesman. "In upper Michigan in 2013, my parents were killed by a logging truck driver who was high on marijuana, so I know it's false."

• Sean Salai can be reached at ssalai@washingtontimes.com.

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Presidential records found right in Clinton's drawer



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Southington votes to prohibit smoking marijuana, drinking alcohol in town parks, public properties


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Published on Tuesday, 28 June 2022 11:33
Written by BRIAN M. JOHNSON
@brianjohnsonBP

SOUTHINGTON – The Southington Town Council voted Monday night to update its smoking ordinances to prohibit smoking marijuana, as well as smoking tobacco and drinking alcohol, in town parks and on public properties.

Town Manager Mark Sciota said the council's vote on the matter was unanimous. The ordinance was initially proposed by councilor Paul Chaplinsky.

"We do not want to have a situation in our parks and public spaces where children are exposed to tobacco or marijuana," Sciota said. "We are now working with our Police Department to figure out the best way to put up signage at parks and other town-owned areas. The goal is not to serve tickets, but to educate the public that this activity is not permitted in these spaces. We don't anticipate that there will be a lot of fines issued."

Town Councilor Tom Lombardi said the town had existing ordinances prohibiting smoking tobacco and drinking alcohol in these public spaces.

"We just added in recreational marijuana, now that it has been legalized in Connecticut," he said. "I think it's a good ordinance to put on the books. We want to make it clear to residents that our parks and public spaces are not the place for smoking and drinking alcohol and that includes marijuana."

Lombardi said the council emphasized Monday night that this new ordinance does not restrict people's personal freedoms to smoke or drink if they

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Southington Town Hall -FILE PHOTO

choose. It just prevents from being done on town parks and properties.

The state legalized recreational use of marijuana for adults 21 or older on June 1 of last year. Since then, some local communities have been establishing ordinances related to the sale of marijuana within their municipalities. Many have also established ordinances prohibiting the smoking of marijuana in certain public places.

Southington's new policy falls in line with many in area communities.

Bristol's ordinances ban the smoking of marijuana in parks and other recreational spaces. In New Britain, the city also voted to restrict smoking marijuana on city property this January. Plymouth passed a similar ordinance this April.

The following is the exact language of the new ordinance:

"No person shall use, carry or smoke a lighted cigarette, cigar, cigarillo, pipe, or powered-onvaporizer device, or use cannabis-type substance including marijuana, as defined in Connecticut General Statutes Section 21a-240, in any form in or upon any building, park, playground, recreation area, athletic facility, trail, lake or area of assembly owned, leased or controlled by the Town of Southington as may be specifically designated by the Southington Town Manager; provided however, that signs are posted in the area such as to reasonably warn persons that the area is subject to this No Smoking ordinance.

Penalties for offenses.

Violation of this chapter shall constitute an infraction as defined in Connecticut General Statutes 51-164n and/or may be punishable by a fine of not more than \$90 pursuant to the Citation Ordinance of the Town of Southington.

Enforcement.

Members of the Southington Police Department shall be charged with the enforcement of this chapter and may issue a warning or a citation under the Southington Citation Ordinance.

Additionally, agents and employees of the Town of Southington and coaches or officials participating in any athletic event in or upon any Town-owned athletic or recreation facility are authorized to enforce this chapter through the exclusion of the violator from the athletic event or recreational facility."

Brian M. Johnson can be reached at 860-973-1806

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Posted in The Bristol Press, Southington Herald on Tuesday, 28 June 2022 11:33. Updated: Tuesday, 28 June 2022 11:36.

Recreational Cannabis Sales in the City of Bristol

THOMAS WARD <matchss@aol.com>

Mon 9/5/2022 7:38 PM

To: Thomas Conlin <ThomasConlin@bristolct.gov>; Susan L. Tyler <susantyl@bristolct.gov>;

As a practicing Pediatrician in this town for 33 years I have seen a lot of Drug and Alcohol Abuse that has impacted my patients and their families.

I have been told by my older teen patients that marijuana is a gateway drug to their use of stronger drugs.

I have been told by those same patients that they have illegally used the marijuana that TruLieve has provided for prescribed medical use. Those teen patients got the drug from their friends who had it prescribed.

In my own opinion there are presently too many approved uses for medical marijuana.

We do not need to increase the availability and exposure of marijuana in this city through retail sales.

The legislature legalized marijuana as a source of revenue.

Multiple experts came before the legislature against the sale of marijuana in this state.

The Connecticut State Medical Society was against the legalization of marijuana for retail sales.

This is not marijuana smoked by our ancient ancestors.

This will be marijuana developed by scientifically trained plant biologists.

Horticulturalists who can potentially breed strains of marijuana to make it more potent and more addictive.

Is that what we want?
All for profit.

I say NO to retail sales of marijuana in the City of Bristol.

Thoma G. Ward MD

From: Lorraine Croteau <lcroteau22@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, September 5, 2022 8:56 AM

To: Jacqueline A. Olsen

Subject: Cannabis

I do not think making cannabis more readily available will be in the best interest of our city and citizens. We already have problems with alcohol, drugs, gambling to name a few. Making it easier to obtain cannabis in our city is not an option we should consider.

My name is Lorraine Croteau

68 Robbins Avenue in Bristol.

I have been a resident of Bristol since 1968 and I oppose any plans to facilitate putting cannabis stores in Bristol. Lorraine Croteau

Sent from my iPhone

Cannabis establishments ordinance - David Haberfeld

David <david080@yahoo.com>

Wed 8/31/2022 12:37 PM

To: Susan L. Tyler <susantyl@bristolct.gov>;

Cc: Jeffrey Caggiano <jeffcaggiano@bristolct.gov>;

Hi Sue,

I wanted to reach out to weigh in on the recreational marijuana discussion.

I'm not a fan of weed, I don't smoke, but I am a tax payer and this is now just another legal business.

I'd like to suggest that banning it from Bristol is really only a ban on tax revenue.

If we were to turn the business away, it will open in one of the surrounding towns and that town will get the tax revenue instead of us.

The argument that we shouldn't make it more convenient or easier to obtain is of course made with the best of intentions, and I don't blame anyone for feeling that way, but the reality is that ever since you were a kid, you have never ever known anyone who wanted to buy weed and couldn't obtain it illegally. It's always been available anytime. Every one of us has always known someone we could have called if we wanted to buy weed since we were teenagers. Forcing citizens to legally buy it the next town over instead of in Bristol is the most minor of inconveniences as far as hindering people from smoking weed.

My opinion is that the smart business decision is to keep the business in Bristol and receive the tax revenue. The moral issue just isn't impactful for me, because it cannot be stopped, and the effect would be so minimal.

-David Haberfeld

www.daviddna.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Brittany Barney [mailto:brittanybristol@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 9:28 AM

To: Mayor'sOffice <MayorsOffice@bristolct.gov>

Subject: Vote Yes to Allow Legal Marijuana in Bristol

Hello Mayor Caggiano,

I will do my best to attend tonight's public hearing, but I wanted to enter into the record my support for allowing legal marijuana dispensaries, and to encourage you and the council to ensure our ordinances allow for the sale of legal marijuana in Bristol.

Marijuana, is legal in the state of CT. Allowing access for Bristol residents to obtain safe marijuana legally is the best way to ensure responsible use of this legal item.

I appreciate you hearing my opinion and thank you in advance for including in the record.

Best,
Brittany Barney
128 Queen St
Bristol, CT 06010

Sent from my iPhone

Spoke in person (zoom)

From: Barbara Comcast <abacampora@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 1:14 PM

To: Jacqueline A. Olsen

Subject: Marijuana Sales in Bristol,CT

I am against the sale of recreational marijuana in Bristol.

It's sale in the city would be focused solely on economic benefits.

I consider it a "Gateway Substance" leading to possible harmful consequences to it's users.

Bristol is a beautiful city providing it's citizens numerous wholesome ways to recreate

Without the need for marijuana sales.

I believe in the sale of medicinal marijuana prescribed by licensed healthcare professionals for specific medical conditions only.

I sincerely hope that an intelligent and humane decision to Not sell recreational marijuana in Bristol be made by our elected officials

Barbara Acampora

10 Kenneth Terrace

Bristol, CT 06010

From: Bruce Cockayne <bruce@brokersadvanced.com>

Sent: Monday, September 5, 2022 7:34:34 PM

To: Jacqueline A. Olsen

Subject: Recreational Cannabis

I oppose the allowing the opening of a store to sell recreational cannabis in the City of Bristol. I believe it will bring a different group of people to the city.

Bruce Cockayne

93 Tuttle Rd

Bristol, CT 06010

Sent from Mail for Windows

H T S

Good evening,

My name is Howard T. Schmelder and I reside at 335 Vera Rd. Bristol, CT and have been a resident of Bristol for 79 ½ years.

I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed retail sale of cannabis within the boundaries of Bristol. I want to be clear that I do not oppose the sale of medical cannabis.

I have been involved in the economic and community development of Bristol for fifty years this November. I have been a commissioner of the Bristol Redevelopment Agency, the Bristol Development Authority and a current commissioner of the Economic and Community Development Board.

I have had the privilege of voting on many of the major developments and business expansions in Bristol.

Cannabis should not be a driver of economic development in Bristol. If any entity desires to establish an additional medical cannabis facility I am in full support.

Just because the State of Connecticut thinks this is great for our State does not mean that it is great for Bristol. We have enough crime to deal with now and adding to this the possibility of impaired actions such as DUI is not in the best interest of our city. We have an ongoing Opioid crisis in Bristol and most drug habits begin with cannabis.

If we plan to Build a Better Bristol, cannabis is not the road to take. We were once known as the MUM CITY – do we want to now be known as the POT CITY.

Thank you

Howard T Schmelder

Monique Cloutier <mcloutier458@gmail.com>

Fri 9/2, 3:24 PM Susan L. Tyler;thomas-collin@bristolct.gov

I think people are getting lost in the recreational use versus the opening of new businesses in Bristol. Bristol and nearby residents are already using cannabis recreationally, we just want them to buy locally so we can reap the tax benefits. Also, I thought we wanted to encourage new businesses in Bristol. We should impose the same restrictions around dispensary locations that we do for liquor stores. Let the market determine supply and demand. If you've ever visited a dispensary in Massachusetts you'd know it is a booming business.

Monique Cloutier

From: betty dauphinee <eapdauph@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, September 5, 2022 8:29:41 PM

To: Jacqueline A. Olsen

Subject: Opposed

Elizabeth Dauphinee

84 Jan Rd

Bristol.

I am opposed to bringing recreational marijuana to our City. It will bring down our property value , bring in a class of people that are under the influence that will hinder their ability to make good decisions and it has increased the number of accidents in Cities in which they were opened up in.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Joann York <yorkjoann@ymail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 3, 2022 9:28:24 PM
To: Jacqueline A. Olsen
Subject: Opposed Cannabis

To whom it may concern,
We are opposed to the fact they want to make Cannabis legal in Bristol, Ct . We believe that the city will have very little financial gain. And we also believe it will cause a lot more issues in our city. You can make this public knowledge.

Thank you

Douglas and JoAnn York Bristol, Ct

Janet Heath <jaz60crna@gmail.com>

Yesterday, 8:44 AM Susan L. Tyler

I am forwarding this to you in advance of Tuesdays meeting I can't attend....as lifetime Bristol resident and Healthcare provider..I'm concerned!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Janet Heath** <jaz60crna@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 5, 2022, 8:40 AM

Subject: Dispensary...My Opinion

To: <Mayorsoffice@bristolct.gov>

Good morning.. so as a concerned LIFETIME resident of Bristol. (I'm 62 and a Healthcare provider)..I want to voice my opinion on the Dispensary...First, I'm not against Marijuana..it does have its benefit....but the legalization and Dispensary stores has caused it to be priced beyond the affordability of those who need it ! I've had patients tell me they still get it on the street because they can't afford the regulated product ! So I checked it out in Massachusetts...OMG...\$\$\$ and I have a great job.... so where will people get this money to purchase?...when the economy is in such a whirl wind situation? HOME HEATING OIL \$4-5 a gallon..gas 3.75- 4+ a gallon? and the grocery store is out of control.... I can bet..increased CRIME....so many posts on "BRISTOL TALKS" about car break ins... and I don't see that Bristol has enough Police power to even handle this...Bristol DOES NOT NEED ANY MORE ISSUES AND TRAFFIC SEEKING MARIJUANA FROM NEIGHBORING COMMUNITIES... the 3% take on sales will not cover the costs this week incur....My children are grown.... let's invest our time and money into giving them an outlet and places to go besides a Dispensary....(I know they can't go in..but will be affected by increased drugs in homes. Legal or not...gummies look like candy to kids...the incident of one way accidents has broken records since Marijuana was legalized) ..It affects everyone...Consider all options...neighboring cities have REFUSED..... so why does Bristol want this? I'd love to know..unfortunately I have to work off shift on Tuesday or I'd be there...But I NEED TO MAKE MY OPINION KNOWN..attached is an article about Denver Co. Experience with its also.

Thank you

Public Comment
Theresa Motel
222 Tyler Way
Bristol CT 06010
Attention Chair

I strongly oppose this. This doesnt benefit our city by any means . If the city is expecting 300,000 dollars in tax revenue thats 10 million dollars of product on our streets. I am a long time Bristol resident with children who have to grow up in this city with increased access to this . You are opening doors that shouldnt be open .This is a slippery slope ! It reduces property values also. Why cant we compromise and just have one more medicinal one? Just because it is legal doesnt make it right!!! We should be the change , be leaders not followers I am so disapointed in our local government for even entertaining any of this.

Sincerely,
A Bristol Mom

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

Misty <mistybidwell12@gmail.com>

Mon 9/5/2022 11:44 PM

To: Susan L. Tyler <susantyl@bristolct.gov>;

I STRONGLY OPPOSE bringing retail marijuana to the City of Bristol and I would like this comment read into the public record please.

Thank you

Misty Bidwell

106 Laurel St. apt 2

Bristol, CT 06010

From: Jackie Carrier <jackiecarrier@icloud.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 4, 2022 11:40 AM

To: Jacqueline A. Olsen

Subject: Cannabis

As a long time resident of Bristol it very concerning of a retail business for tax purposes.

As a parent of a overdose, I feel this is a gate way to deadly drugs. There is a reason that our neighboring towns voted against this.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Joan LeBlanc <JmLCC39@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2022 6:16:45 PM
To: Jacqueline A. Olsen
Subject: Recreational Cannabis

My concerns with the sale of recreational cannabis are: increase in addiction with stronger substances.

It's affect on driving safely. Concerns with reaction time and coordination. Traffic accidents.

Increase use with youth. Issues requiring medical care; Asthma, depression and anxiety.

Joan LeBlanc
27 Pleasant St.
Bristol

Sent from my iPhone

From: Barry <bkgraugard@snet.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2022 5:51:10 AM
To: Jacqueline A. Olsen
Subject:

Barry Graugard
74 Glenview Dr

We the people in Bristol don't need a cannabis retailer in our town just for the tax money we need more better business the town is going the wrong way with a store for cannabis driving now is bad on our roads don't need pot heads along with the drunk drivers and the other distracted drivers here in Bristol
Sent from my iPhone

Public Hearing September 6th Bristol Library 5:30 - My opinion to be read into the record

Ernie Pitti <epitti2005@gmail.com>

Wed 8/24/2022 3:30 PM

To: Susan L. Tyler <susantyl@bristolct.gov>; Susan Tyler <Suesellsct@gmail.com>;

Cc: Ernest Pitti <epitti2005@gmail.com>;

Re: Public Comment pertaining to the retail expansion of cannabis in Bristol

Ms. Chairperson:

My name is Ernest Pitti and I reside at 65 Palmorr Place in Bristol, CT.

Although, I believe that medicinal marijuana should be legally accessible, I believe all of us, but especially our elected leaders have an inherent responsibility (to the public) to research both the positive and the NEGATIVE effects of such a move (establishment and promoting of retail marijuana) on individuals and the city they represent!

I believe that there is much research out there that supports what many of us have already discovered, unfettered access to recreational marijuana is not good! Why would we heed the advice and research of the scientific community when it comes to the dangers of cigarette smoking and NOT HEED their pleas that recreational use of marijuana is not only addictive but dangerous as well?? The State of Connecticut's present leadership has decided its treasury is more important than the lives of its citizens, especially its youth, but that is no reason for our city's leaders and other members of our community to follow suit.

Like our Bristol leaders (and probably our entire community) I believe in attracting and supporting small and large business alike and am tired of seeing vacant buildings. However, advocating for and supporting of marijuana retail outlets is not one I'm willing to "hang my hat on". **I fear that these businesses will never be "transformational", unless you consider they can and will make our town less attractive for families and investors!**

Let our neighboring towns entertain and establish such retail outlets. Let us first examine the effects on their communities before promoting such a serious step in ours! Let us see, first hand, how much each of those towns benefit, and measure their outcomes against the vision we have for Bristol! And instead, at least for now, let Bristol continue on the path that attracted most of us to it; a beautiful community with a mix of homes, neighborhoods and growing businesses that work in harmony with the needs and desires of the whole community. And, for now, keep marijuana availability just as it is!

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Ernie Pitti

From: Emily Bailey <emilywbailey@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, September 5, 2022 8:45:20 PM
To: Jacqueline A. Olsen
Subject: Public Comment 9/6 Recreational Marijuana

Name: Emily Bailey

Address: 21 Tiffany Lane

I want the following comments read aloud during the 9/6 public hearing.

I do not support recreational cannabis stores in Bristol. I am a lifelong Bristol resident. While this town definitely could use more revenue this is not the way to obtain it. I believe the negative impacts to our community will out way any tax revenue the city and residents will see. The increase in traffic on our already clogged roads. The stretching of our police and fire departments to handle not only traffic issues, but the increase in policing they will inevitably have to handle will weigh heavily on those resources. Do we really think people are going to follow signs and rules to not do it in public? To lock it in their glove compartment or in their trunk? The police can't even get the illegal motorbikes and scooters off the roads. We don't remove the panhandlers from our streets.

It's all a joke!

Didn't this city council just recently approve Wheeler Clinic to obtain a huge chunk of land that will offer our city NO tax revenue? Now, the town is desperate at any cost for tax revenue.

The journal, Addiction, just published at the end of August 2022, that the US states that legalize recreational cannabis see a 20% increase in its usage. It was also noted that the existence of recreational policies help to change the perception of cannabis use making it viewed as safe and less stigmatized. Also, in states where recreational use is legal, advertisements often label the drug as safe. In reality, frequent or prolonged use of marijuana is associated with health conditions such as chronic bronchitis and schizophrenia. I have provided a link to that article and study here in my comments.

Statement

maria Simmons <maxwellmar@aol.com>

Tue 9/6/2022 4:49 PM

To: Jacqueline A. Olsen <jacquelineolsen@bristolct.gov>;

Good afternoon. My name is Maria Simmons, and I reside at 70 Ipswitch Road in Bristol. At this time, I am in opposition of the retail sale of cannabis for recreational use in Bristol. I have concerns with the deleterious impacts open access will have for school aged children. In my extensive experience as an educator and school leader for Unified School District #1, the legally vested school district for the Connecticut Department of Correction, a disproportionately high percentage of students 14 years of age and above consistently reported marijuana use as the primary cause of truancy and criminal activity. I have two children attending elementary school in Bristol, but they're all our children. I want to see all children thrive and experience success. I have personally seen the impacts cannabis has had on these students. I think this should be strongly considered when making this decision in Bristol.

I have traveled to states that have legalized the retail sale of cannabis, and the irrevocable consequences of this action have outweighed any proposed or actual revenue generated from the sales. Conversations with residents of these cities and states have further reinforced the now known consequences and evidence the retail sale of cannabis for recreational use has had on communities.

I acknowledge and even appreciate that there are medicinal benefits that cannabis offers for those who are in need. I think this is where Bristol should remain for now. The decision to allow the retail sale of cannabis for recreational use can be revisited. Practices and impacts in other states should be researched and understood before this is approved. An implementation plan should be devised and proposed BEFORE approval. Stakeholders and community members should be aware of these efforts and measures BEFORE this is approved.

Bristol is emerging as a leader in so many wonderful things. Let us be a leader in acquiring quantitative and qualitative data to fully support a decision that has such deep and enduring impacts on a community. We're just not there yet.

Thank you.

Maria Simmons

From: N M [mailto:n_michaud@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 12:13 AM
To: Cheryl Thibeault <cherylthibeault@bristolct.gov>
Cc: Mayor'sOffice <MayorsOffice@bristolct.gov>
Subject: Marijuana retail sales comments

Hello Ms. Thibeault and Mr. Mayor,

I'm unable to attend the ordinance hearing, but please read my public input below at the meeting. This should take less than 4 minutes as allowed.

Dear Bristol Ordinance Committee,

My name is Nick M. , I reside at 3 Sherman St. I'm a long time Bristol resident. I have three related points I'd like to give my input on tonight.

First, although your decisions regarding this ordinance won't impact me directly, they will impact tax paying businesses in Town. From a capitalistic and business perspective, I don't agree with the proposed draft.

It seems unfair to let one preferred company, Trulieve, essentially monopolize recreational sales in Bristol. By limiting retailers to 1 per 40,000 residents, it would be impossible to have another retail location besides Trulieve in town, unless the City population increased by 20,000. That's a bit drastic! I feel at least 2 per 30,000 residents would be fairer and more reasonable. Or just don't limit them at all. Some of the smoke shops in town have been here a long time. I'm sure they would like to increase their revenues with the sale of recreational MJ as well. They should be taken into consideration.

Secondly, some committee members have spoken about marijuana being a gateway drug and mentioned the safety of children as being their main focus of the decisions made. However, the Federal NIDA/NIH have stated the following in part: "Some research suggests that marijuana use is likely to precede use of other illicit substances and the development of addiction to other substances...These findings are consistent with the idea of marijuana as a "gateway drug." **However**, the majority of people who use marijuana do **NOT** go on to use other, "harder" substances. Also, cross-sensitization is not unique to marijuana. **Alcohol and nicotine also prime the brain for a heightened response to other drugs** and are, like marijuana, also typically used before a person progresses to other, more harmful substances"

I briefly interpret this to mean that based on NIH research, Marijuana has not been found to be any worse than alcohol or nicotine when being considered as a gateway drug. However, it seems to be potentially penalized on a local basis way more than Alcohol, cigarettes and vapes. Yet nobody seems to ever suggest limiting bars, liquor stores or nicotine sales in Town which are separate but equal culprits as gateway drugs...why not?!

I fail to see how this product is any worse than alcohol or nicotine and don't see the need for it to be limited to just one retailer. Keep in mind that the strength and

dose of the recreational Marijuana will be lower than medical grade Marijuana. In comparison, what do you think the Public and the liquor store owners would say if Crazy Bruce was the only liquor retailer allowed in town? It doesn't make good business sense to me. Whether we like it or not, it's now a legal substance in CT.

Lastly, I don't agree with the proposed rule of retail sales allowed 250' from a school. Why isn't it 1500', as it usually is for other illicit type businesses, such as gentleman's clubs? Even the standard "drug free zone" around a school is usually 1,500 ft.

If your decisions are largely based on children's safety and their potential exposure to this substance, then why on earth would you opt set the zone distance to only 250' from a school? It seems contradictory to me.

Coincidentally, the new Trulieve location on Rt 6 is actually less than 1500' from the Stafford School property line. From my brief calculations (see photo below), it's only about 1,111' (straight line) from the corner of the Stafford School property line to the Applewood/Trulieve building. If the standard 1500' zone was used, then it would probably not be possible for Trulieve to be located where they are already going.

So is the committee intent on setting the zone to 250' largely to accommodate Trulieve? If yes, then please be up front about it and let the Public know why.

Personally I don't see how only 250' will keep school children safe if this is what you are concerned about. If you are truly focused on children safety and their exposure to recreational Marijuana, then set the zone to 1500', not 250'. And consider limiting the number of liquor stores and nicotine sales as well going forward....since they are equally to blame for the impact all these substances have on society in general.

Thank you for your time.

Re: cannabis store in Bristol

teresa burkards.net <teresa@burkards.net>

Tue 9/6/2022 3:58 PM

To: jacqueolsen49@gmail.com <jacqueolsen49@gmail.com>; Jacqueline A. Olsen <jacquelineolsen@bristolct.gov>;

I request that my comments be read into public record -

To whom it concerns -

Over these past few years, positive propaganda has come forward making the case for cannabis, the strongest being its medicinal benefits. But silent are the negative effects, which far outweigh the drug's benefits.

Today's marijuana, or cannabis, as it is euphemistically called (probably in order to separate the drug from a darker past), is sold as a tempering drug - it alleviates stress and anxiety, and that's a good thing, right? But let's consider that today's marijuana has greater psychotic inducing aspects with an increased presence of THC and the psychoactive compounds - CBD and CBG, all of which can lead to potentially profound negative effects.

The American Heart Association in 2020 declared that there are no known benefits to marijuana use and, in fact, when smoked, the THC component, which produces mind alteration, penetrates every organ of the body, and assuredly and negatively affects both heart and brain. This fact is also recognized by the Drug Enforcement Administration. In the US, under the Control Substance Act, marijuana is considered a Schedule One Substance, which means that, along with heroin, LSD, and ecstasy, marijuana is considered a drug that has no accepted medicinal use and a high potential for abuse.

One has to ask then - what are the socially beneficial qualities that are derived from marijuana use? There are none. Drugs have inflicted and will continue to inflict grave damage on human life and health.

Which begs the question - if there is no benefit, what is the agenda behind this push to legalize this gateway drug? I think it's because that is precisely what it is. After all, marijuana is not so bad, is it? But what happens if this drug falls into the hands of children? We all know that this will inevitably happen. As well, we need to consider - in today's world of shortages, what happens if there is a marijuana shortage? People will unavoidably turn to something else to satisfy their addiction - heavier and deadlier drugs, perhaps?

Let us take a stand today and say no to this gateway drug in our city. And let us resist the argument that it will inevitably come to Bristol. Perhaps it will, but that's a fight for another day. Today let us stand and say no to the sale of adult recreational cannabis in Bristol.

Thank you.

Teresa Burkard
464 Willis Street
Bristol, CT 06010

From: Christine Dauphinee <5cdauph@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, September 3, 2022 8:37:31 PM

To: Jacqueline A. Olsen

Subject: Dispensary

My name is Christine Dauphinee & I live at 119 Grove St, Bristol. I am opposed to the marijuana dispensary they are putting in Applewoods. Bristol does not need this. Please stop it.