



Item #5
5-30-17

Margaret Mims
Sheriff-Coroner
Fresno County Sheriff's Office

May 30, 2017

The Honorable Lee Brand
Mayor of City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street, Room 2075
Fresno, CA 93721

Dear Mayor Brand:

Thank you for your discussions you have had with me regarding the issue of what the City of Fresno is doing regarding marijuana ordinances. I want to emphasize my recommendation to you to join Fresno County and most of the 15 cities located within the County to ban commercial sales of both medical and recreational marijuana.

- Fresno County does not allow medical or recreational commercial sales
- 11 Cities in Fresno County have decided to not allow medical or recreational commercial sales
Clovis – Fowler – Kerman – Kingsburg – Huron – Mendota – Orange Cove – Reedley – Selma – Sanger – San Joaquin
- 1 City in Fresno County is in the process of banning such sales
Firebaugh
- 1 City is undecided
Parlier
- 1 City allows a commercial dispensary and commercial production of concentrated marijuana
Coalinga

The temptation to be swayed by the potential of revenue is strong, but as experienced by cities in States that have allowed public sales, the downside cannot be ignored. For example, according to the Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area report, most cities in Colorado do not allow commercial sales of marijuana. Denver is one that does allow the sales and the impact on local police as well as crime have not been positive, as outlined in the attached letter from the Denver District Attorney.

Mayor, I appreciate your considered approach to the issue. We will continue to work with you and the Fresno Police Department to keep our communities safe and healthy. Allowing commercial sales of marijuana in the City of Fresno would do neither. As public discussions are held, I or a representative will be in attendance, and, as always, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

Margaret Mims, Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Chief Jerry Dyer

Dedicated to Protect & Serve



DenverDA

Mitchell R. Morrissey, District Attorney - Second Judicial District

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October 12, 2016

No on 64 Campaign and SAM Action

California voters are being told that they will see the crime rate go down if they vote to legalize marijuana commercially; this has not been the case in the state of Colorado or the city of Denver. Since the legalization of recreational marijuana in Colorado in 2013 traffic related marijuana deaths have increased 48%, marijuana related emergency room visits have increased 49%, and marijuana related calls to the poison center have increased 100%. According to the Colorado Bureau of Investigations in 2015 statewide homicides in Colorado rose 14.7 % over the previous year. Pueblo, Colorado had the highest homicide rate in the state with 11.1 killings per 100,000 residents. Aurora, Colorado's homicide rate more than doubled from 2014. Additionally more places in Colorado were robbed and more thefts occurred, especially cars, as 193,115 motor vehicles were reported stolen, up 27.7 % in 2015 from the previous year. In 2015, sexual assaults rose 10% in Colorado with Denver, Aurora, Lakewood, Westminster and Pueblo all reporting higher numbers as well.

In the city of Denver since the legalization of recreational marijuana the number of crimes in Denver has grown by about 44 %, according to annual figures the city reported to the National Incident Based Reporting System. In 2015 in Denver alone crime rose in every neighborhood in the city. The murder rate hit a decade high, 1059 more cars were broken into, there were 903 more auto thefts, 321 more aggravated assaults and 231 more homes were broken into compared to 2014.

California voters are also being told that legalizing recreational marijuana will free up law enforcement to work on other criminal activities. Again that has not been the case in Denver. Besides the overall increases in crime we have experience, the Denver police department is dealing with a 900% increase in the unlawful cultivation and manufacture of marihuana concentrate, and a 99% increase in the unlawful distribution of marijuana and marijuana concentrate. The quantity of illegal marijuana seized by the Denver police has increased 3,424% on average per case. The volume of marijuana seized per case has increased from an average of 162 pounds to 5724 pounds. In Denver unlawful public consumption of marijuana citations has increased over 300% per year since the legalization of recreational marijuana. The Denver police department is busier enforcing marijuana laws and investigating crimes directly related to marijuana, including murderers, robberies, and home invasions, than any other time in the history of the city.

Sincerely,

Mitchell R. Morrissey
Denver District Attorney