



City of Aurora

44 East Downer Place
Aurora, Illinois 60505
www.aurora-il.org

Legistar History Report

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In Control: Building, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee

File Created: 09/25/2019

File Name: City of Aurora / Text Amendment / Cannabis Uses

Final Action:

Title: An Ordinance Approving a Text Amendment to Ordinance Number 3100, being the Aurora Zoning Ordinance to modify certain portions being Section 3.3 Definitions, Section 4.3 Special Uses & Structures and Table One: Use Categories

Notes:

Agenda Date: 10/09/2019

Agenda Number:

Sponsors:

Enactment Date:

Attachments: Exhibit "A" Text Amendment 2019-10-02.pdf, Sept 2019 IML KTJ update.pdf, Certificate of Publication in the Beacon News - 2019-09-23 - 2019.171.pdf, 500 ft School Buffer Map.pdf

Enactment Number:

Planning Case #: KDWK-19.171-TXT/AZO

Hearing Date:

Drafter: esieben@aurora-il.org

Effective Date:

History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Planning Commission	10/02/2019	Forwarded	Building, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee	10/09/2019		Pass
Action Text: A motion was made by Mrs. Head, seconded by Mr. Chambers, that this agenda item be Forwarded to the Building, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee, on the agenda for 10/9/2019. The motion carried.							
Notes: See attached Minutes from Grove & Associates Reporting & Video Services.							
Aye: 7 At Large Cameron, At Large Anderson, Fox Metro Representative Divine, Fox Valley Park District Representative Chambers, SD 129 Representative Head, At Large Gonzales and At Large Elsbree							
Nay: 3 Aurora Twnshp Representative Reynolds, At Large Owusu-Safo and SD 131 Representative Hull							

In the Matter Of:
CITY OF AURORA PLANNING COMMISSION

RE: TEXT AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE

October 02, 2019

Grove & Associates Reporting & Video Services
1333 North Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 462-0060
www.groveandassoc.com



6733

BEFORE THE CITY OF AURORA PLANNING COMMISSION

HEARING FOR A TEXT AMENDMENT)
TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE,)

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS had
and testimony taken at the hearing of the
above-entitled cause commencing on Wednesday,
October 2, 2019 7:00 P. M. at 44 East Downer
Place, Aurora, Illinois.

As Reported By:

Barbara Johnston
Certified Shorthand Reporter
CSR No. 84-002903

1 PRESENT:

2 CITY OF AURORA Assistant Corporate Counsel
3 by MS. DEBORAH LANG and
4 MS. MARISSA SPENCER
5 44 East Downer Place
6 Aurora, Illinois 60507
7 (630) 256-3060
8 dlang@aurora-il.org
9 Appeared on behalf of City of Aurora.

10 ALSO PRESENT:

11 MR. ED SIEBEN, Director
12 MS. TRACEY VACEK, Senior Planner
13 MR. DON PILMER, Chairman
14 MS. SHANITA ANDERSON, Commissioner
15 MR. KEN CAMERON, Commissioner
16 MR. IVAN CHAMBERS, Commissioner
17 MR. PAT DIVINE, Commissioner
18 MR. GREG ELSBREE, Commissioner
19 MR. PEDRO GONZALES, Commissioner
20 MS. LYNN HEAD, Commissioner
21 MR. RAY HULL, Commissioner
22 MS. YVONNE OWUSU-SAFO, Commissioner
23 MR. MIKE REYNOLDS, Commissioner
24 MS. SUE JACKSON, Administrative Secretary

(Exhibits tendered during
above-referenced hearing
are attached but not
specifically referenced
during the hearing.)

- - -

1 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Good evening. I would like
2 to call to order the City of Aurora Planning
3 Commission Meeting for Wednesday, October 2nd.

4 Please call the roll.

5 MS. JACKSON: Chairman Pilmer.

6 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Here.

7 MS. JACKSON: Mrs. Anderson.

8 MS. ANDERSON: Here.

9 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Cameron.

10 MR. CAMERON: Here.

11 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Chambers.

12 MR. CHAMBERS: Here.

13 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Divine.

14 MR. DIVINE: Here.

15 MS. JACKSON: Mrs. Duncan.

16 (No response.)

17 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Elsbree.

18 MR. ELSBREE: Here.

19 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Gonzales.

20 MR. GONZALES: Here.

21 MS. JACKSON: Mrs. Head.

22 MS. HEAD: Here.

23 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Hull.

24 MR. HULL: Here.

1 MS. JACKSON: Mrs. Owusu-Safo.

2 MS. OWUSU-SAFO: Here.

3 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Reynolds.

4 MR. REYNOLDS: Here.

5 MS. JACKSON: Miss Tidwell?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Before you are the minutes
8 of our last meeting on Wednesday, September 18th.

9 Are there any corrections or
10 additions?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Hearing none, I would ask
13 for a motion.

14 MR. CHAMBERS: Submit for approval.

15 MR. ELSBREE: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Motion by Mr. Chambers,
17 seconded by Mr. Elsbree.

18 Please call roll.

19 MS. JACKSON: Mrs. Anderson.

20 MS. ANDERSON: Yes.

21 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Cameron.

22 MR. CAMERON: Yes.

23 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Chambers.

24 MR. CHAMBERS: Yes.

1 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Divine.

2 MR. DEVINE: Yes.

3 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Elsbree.

4 MR. ELSBREE: Yes.

5 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Gonzalez.

6 MR. GONZALES: Yes.

7 MS. JACKSON: Mrs. Head.

8 MS. HEAD: Yes.

9 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Hull.

10 MR. HULL: Pass.

11 MS. JACKSON: Mrs. Owusu-Safo.

12 MS. OWUSU-SAFO: Yes.

13 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Reynolds.

14 MR. REYNOLDS: Yes.

15 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Motion carries.

16 Before we begin our agenda tonight,
17 I will let everyone know in the audience that
18 this -- in accordance with the State of Illinois
19 Open Meetings Act. That anyone in the audience
20 can come forward and talk about any item that is
21 not on the agenda.

22 If anyone would like to come forward
23 and speak about an item that is not on the
24 agenda, you will have three minutes to do so now.

1 Would anyone like to speak?

2 Please note for the record that no
3 one has come forward.

4 Our first item on the agenda is an
5 ordinance approving a text amendment to ordinance
6 number 3100 being the Aurora zoning ordinance to
7 modify certain portions being section 3.3
8 definitions, section 4.3 special uses and
9 structures, and table 1 use categories, City of
10 Aurora. This is a public hearing. Before we
11 have staff present the case, we'll ask our court
12 reporter to swear in the staff.

13 (Witnesses sworn.)

14 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Okay.

15 MR. SIEBEN: Good evening, plan commission
16 and audience. I would like to make just some
17 introductions of the staff.

18 My name is Ed Sieben. I'm the City
19 of Aurora zoning and planning director and also
20 the city zoning administrator. Sitting next to
21 me is Tracey Vacek, our senior planner. Sue
22 Jackson is our administrative assistant also
23 taking notes. And then from our law department,
24 we have Deb Lang and Marissa Spencer, so for

1 background.

2 Just want to -- for the record, the
3 public notice was published in the Aurora Beacon
4 News on September 17th, 2019. As the chairman
5 stated, the purpose of this meeting is a proposed
6 text amendment modifying certain portions of the
7 Aurora zoning ordinance, specifically regarding
8 cannabis uses in the City of Aurora in response
9 to recent State of Illinois legislation.

10 A little background information. On
11 June 25th, 2019, the Cannabis Regulation and Tax
12 Act was signed into law by the State of Illinois
13 effective January 1st, 2020. The act legalizes
14 the purchase, possession and private use of
15 cannabis by adults over 21 years of age for
16 recreational use. The majority of the law
17 pertains to sales, processing, distribution,
18 taxes and eligible users of cannabis.

19 That allows local government to have
20 zoning authority to prohibit which would be opt
21 out or limit the location of cannabis business by
22 enacting reasonable zoning regulations as long as
23 they are not in conflict with the act.

24 These regulations may include

1 designating the time, place, manner and number of
2 cannabis operations including minimum distances
3 between certain locations.

4 The local government, in this case
5 the City of Aurora, cannot license cannabis
6 facilities as licensing authority remains
7 exclusively under State jurisdiction.

8 Generally, the act also limits
9 dispensaries which is one type of a license from
10 locating within 1,500 feet of another dispensary.
11 And only dispensaries will be open to the public
12 and the State has limited the amount of the
13 dispensaries within the eight-county Chicago
14 region. That would include Cook County, Lake,
15 McHenry, Kane, DuPage, Will, Kendall and Grundy
16 to 47 dispensary licenses at least initially
17 that would be issued in 2020. So obviously
18 Aurora is just a small portion of that
19 eight-county area.

20 A little bit of history. The City
21 of Aurora along with a number of other
22 communities in Illinois went through a similar
23 text amendment process back in 2014. That's when
24 the State of Illinois first passed the Medical

1 Cannabis Act. The City of Aurora put into place
2 some regulations in the zoning ordinance for
3 medical cannabis per the State act, specifically
4 for dispensaries and cultivation facilities in
5 2014.

6 And a little history. The City of
7 Aurora in 2014 did approve three special use
8 permits for dispensaries within the City of
9 Aurora, one on Route 59 and there are actually
10 two on Lake Street. However, the State of
11 Illinois did not issue a medical dispensary
12 license for any of those three dispensaries.

13 If you may recall, there were only
14 two that were allowed at that time in Kane
15 County, one in southern Kane County that went to
16 the Village of North Aurora. And then DuPage
17 County did have some medical dispensary licenses
18 issued by the State. The closest one was in the
19 City of Naperville.

20 The City of Aurora also did approve
21 one special use for a medical cultivation society
22 which was on Diehl Road. That was again approved
23 in 2014 and that facility was issued a license by
24 the State of Illinois and has been operating, I

1 believe, for the last four years.

2 So using the already -- so the
3 intent is using the already established zoning
4 ordinance regulations for medical cannabis and to
5 expand it to cover the new cannabis regulations.
6 We've, in general, included the following
7 modifications to the Aurora zoning ordinance
8 regulations.

9 In general, it's to establish use
10 categories and definitions for cannabis
11 dispensing facilities, cannabis cultivation
12 facilities, processing facilities, infuser
13 facilities and transporting facilities and craft
14 grower facilities.

15 So originally there were --
16 originally there were two license types. Those
17 were the dispensaries and the cultivation
18 facilities. And we are adding definitions --
19 we're modifying the definitions per the State act
20 and then we're adding the other four types of
21 license that the State is also gonna be licensing
22 which would be cannabis processing facility,
23 cannabis infuser facility, cannabis transporting
24 facility and cannabis craft grower facility.

1 These zoning regulations again
2 would -- the definitions replicate those in the
3 State act. We would establish these facilities
4 as special uses which means any facility that
5 comes in has to get a special use permit in
6 certain zoning categories and that is a public
7 hearing for each side and they would have to meet
8 certain specific regulation standards for each.

9 We would amend the use category
10 tables to establish these facilities as special
11 uses in certain districts and then there is
12 specific text amendments detailed in the attached
13 draft ordinance.

14 So, again, there is six proposed
15 licenses. Two we already had in there for
16 medical and then the four additional.

17 I think a lot of what everyone here
18 today is -- is the dispensary licenses are
19 probably the most visible and it's really the
20 only facility that the public would be allowed
21 in.

22 So we're proposing, you know,
23 modifying the definition to match the State act.
24 So cannabis dispensing facility, again, would be

1 a special use just like it was before and it
2 would be allowed as a special use if the
3 underlying zoning district was B2 and B3. Those
4 are -- those are some retail commercial zoning,
5 DC which is downtown core zoning, ORI which is a
6 light industrial district and then M1 and M2
7 which are manufacturing districts.

8 And in addition, we have a lot of
9 areas especially in certain areas of town that
10 are zoned PDD which is a planned development
11 district. And within each of those planned
12 developments, there is specific underlying
13 zoning, so it would also be eligible in the
14 business and industrial sections of the PDD
15 zoning ordinance.

16 Real quickly, some of the other
17 conditions that would have to be met, the
18 facilities which at all times have to comply with
19 all State requirements of the State act.

20 One of the things that we are adding
21 so that these would be only in high traffic and
22 major commercial shopping areas is that these
23 would only be allowed for a special use if they
24 abut an arterial street as shown on the statistic

1 comprehensive plan. There is limited arterial
2 streets in the city. I think there are about 14
3 of them.

4 The facility -- one of the other
5 restrictions we are proposing is that facilities
6 not be located within 500 feet measured property
7 line to property line of a school. That would
8 include a grade school, middle school,
9 alternative school and high school. So that
10 is -- that is something new. The State act does
11 not have any restrictions with distance of
12 schools, so the City would propose 500 feet.

13 The other conditions are that no --
14 no cannabis or paraphernalia can be displayed or
15 kept at the facility so as to be visible from
16 outside the premises including but not limited to
17 depiction on signage.

18 Another key thing for dispensaries
19 is that on-site use is prohibited. There would
20 be no cannabis smoked, eaten or otherwise
21 consumed or ingested on the premises of these
22 dispensaries. It would strictly be retail per
23 the act.

24 The State allows dispensaries to be

1 open as much as 6:00 A. M. to 10:00 P. M. We
2 propose the same as what we had for medical
3 dispensary, that it would be from 8:00 A. M. to
4 10:00 P. M. So that is more restrictive than the
5 State.

6 And then the City would be allowed
7 to add additional conditions as part of a special
8 use approval to provide for compatibility with
9 adjacent land uses and mitigate potential impacts
10 from a dispensing operation.

11 Some of the other items that we get
12 and -- as part of the special use for these --
13 and this is what happened with the medical.
14 There was a lot of data that's required by the
15 State. They have to have a very detailed plan
16 for disposal of any cannabis or byproducts that
17 are not sold.

18 They have to have a very, very
19 detailed security plan for the facility including
20 access, control, surveillance systems, on-site
21 security personal and other security measures
22 required by state or local regulations. And
23 again, they also have to have a copy of operating
24 procedures adopted in compliance with State

1 statues.

2 Individuals, I believe, working at
3 the facilities, they also have to be at least
4 21 years of age.

5 So some -- a lot of that was already
6 in there for the medical dispensaries, but we did
7 add some additional items.

8 And just real quickly, the other
9 types of -- of licenses, again, cultivation, that
10 is similar to what we had before. Again, special
11 use would be required which would be a public
12 hearing and they would only be allowed --
13 eligible for special use within the ORI, M1, M2
14 and the industrial areas of the PDD. So they
15 have to be purely industrial-type areas.

16 The other four more types of
17 license, the processing facility would be pretty
18 much identical to the cultivation facility.
19 There would be special uses in the exact same
20 type of underlying zoning district. The same
21 would be said for the infuser facilities and the
22 transporting facilities.

23 The last type of license is the --
24 what they -- what the State calls a craft grower

1 facility. This is a very limited
2 cultivation-type facility. This would be
3 eligible for special use within those industrial
4 districts plus the B3 district.

5 B3 is a more intense commercial
6 district. We don't have a lot of them in the
7 city, but typically a B3 may allow more for like
8 contractor shops and wholesale facilities. But
9 it would not be allowed for special use in a B2
10 which is what our typical retail or shopping
11 centers are.

12 That is pretty much a summary of the
13 proposal. Just the last item I wanted to touch
14 on, you may have read the City council just
15 recently passed a cannabis sales tax ordinance.
16 The reason that has already been done is because
17 it was required by the State to be done by
18 October 1st. And that would be in effect if the
19 City were to opt in and adopt these proposed text
20 amendments.

21 I think that's all I have unless
22 there is any questions of me or staff.

23 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Questions for staff?

24 Hearing none? Okay.

1 I would like to instruct all in the
2 audience that this is a public hearing. Anyone
3 who would like to speak will have the opportunity
4 to do so. However, if you wish to speak, you do
5 need to be sworn in. Once sworn in, we'll have
6 you come forward. I will call one row at a time
7 and ask people to come forward. It is important
8 that when you start to speak, you need to
9 speak -- you need to state your name and your
10 address and the city of your residence.

11 If you have not signed in, it's also
12 important that you sign in, so if the next person
13 in line could sign in here and keep the line
14 moving.

15 We are all good listeners. And,
16 therefore, if you want to repeat something
17 somebody had said earlier, I would just ask that
18 you would state that fact. We will also take
19 notes up here. And the format here tonight is
20 once the testimony is all heard, we will come
21 back and try to answer the questions that have
22 been presented this evening.

23 So I will open the public hearing.
24 If anyone would like to speak before the

1 commission, if you would please stand and we will
2 swear you in all at once.

3 (The public was sworn.)

4 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Why don't we start right in
5 the front here, ma'am. If you would come up and
6 state your name and address for the record.

7 MS. DECARLO: My name is Erika DeCarlo and my
8 address is 3134 Timber Hill Lane in Aurora. And
9 I'm just here -- I think we should opt in and I
10 think that we should expand the cannabis
11 businesses in Aurora and provide job
12 opportunities here. That's pretty much all I
13 wanted to say.

14 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Next person?

15 MR. VERNON: My name is Roger Vernon, 2625
16 Ginger Woods Drive. I'm executive chairman for
17 People's Marmion neighborhood. I've got a couple
18 points that I want to make.

19 First of all, I think the 500-foot
20 limit is too close to schools. It should be at
21 least the distance -- the minimum distance
22 between distribution facilities which is
23 1500 feet.

24 It was mentioned about the sales

1 tax. I understand that the City is proposing a
2 2 percent sales tax where the state allows up to
3 3 percent. With the financial woes that the City
4 is under, I think it would be prudent that --
5 that they use the entire 3 percent sales tax.

6 It was also mentioned about the 2014
7 approval for the cultivation centers. At that
8 time, there was several residents that were
9 against the cultivation center. They were saying
10 it was too close to residential areas.

11 That was brought in front of -- a
12 court case was brought against not the City, but
13 saying that cultivation centers should not have
14 been awarded a license. The court agreed with
15 that. It is currently under appeal. That appeal
16 ruling has not been made and we're waiting on
17 that. But the -- the court did say that the
18 cultivation center was in violation of the state
19 laws.

20 That's all I have. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Next in the
22 front row.

23 MR. HODUPP: Hello. My name is Eli Hodupp
24 and I live in the first ward at 941 Northfield

1 Drive in Aurora. I bought my house in Aurora
2 about six years ago, but I've primarily lived in
3 the Chicago suburbs all my life.

4 First off, thanks to the City for
5 hosting this. This is really cool to have an
6 opportunity to hear my position on such an
7 important issue.

8 I would like to fully support Aurora
9 in the sale of recreational marijuana inside the
10 city. Living in Illinois, we're no stranger to
11 raising taxes as it seems like the government
12 always needs more money. For instance, Kane
13 County has until the 8th to come up with a
14 decision on how to close a \$1.1 million budget
15 gap, and that solution likely will be raising our
16 taxes once again.

17 Yet every time we do this,
18 conservatives come out of the woodwork talking
19 about fiscal responsibility and how the state
20 needs new revenue sources. The sale of
21 recreational marijuana is one of those new
22 revenue sources and disregarding that fact is the
23 opposite of fiscal responsibility.

24 With other local cities turning

1 their back on this tax revenue, Aurora is in a
2 unique situation to benefit from these foolish
3 decisions. Just because Naperville isn't
4 allowing recreational sales doesn't mean that the
5 ban doesn't exist in Naperville.

6 Those people can come and spend
7 their money and pay the taxes in Aurora instead.
8 It's not like this behavior is unprecedented.
9 Wheaton has oddly strict liquor laws, but what
10 happens when you're in Wheaton and you want to
11 buy beer after hours? You drive 10 minutes to a
12 city that will sell it to you and spend your
13 money there instead and then get your tax
14 revenue.

15 The genie is out of the bottle.
16 Recreational marijuana will be fully legal on the
17 1st of the year whether you like it or not.
18 Holding onto weird, outdated puritanical beliefs
19 from watching Reefer Madness one too many times
20 isn't going to stop anyone from using marijuana.

21 Believe it or not, people are buying
22 and using marijuana in Aurora right now and the
23 city isn't benefiting from it. So why turn our
24 backs on a new source of tax revenue? People get

1 incredibly excited when a new bar or brewery
2 opens in the area. Dispensaries opening really
3 aren't any different.

4 I travel a ton for work and have
5 spent loads of times in areas of the world where
6 marijuana has been legal for ages. All of these
7 stories you'll hear from concerned conservatives
8 on how society will descend into anarchy if the
9 people of Aurora can buy the devil's lettuce are
10 completely imaginary and not at all based in
11 reality. The only threat legalized marijuana
12 poses in the City of Aurora is longer lines at
13 Taco Bell.

14 Again, I urge the City to disregard
15 misguided and make-believe puritanical fear
16 mongering and please vote to allow recreational
17 marijuana dispensaries to open and operate inside
18 the City of Aurora. And while you're at it,
19 crank the sales tax up to 3 percent.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Anyone else in
22 the first row?

23 MS. MCDONALD: Hello. My name is Emily
24 McDonald. I'm actually out of Oswego, 110

1 Tomahawk, but my business is actually here in
2 Aurora. I'm actually here on behalf of Cultivate
3 Me which is a lifestyle brand out of Las Vegas
4 that educates the public on THC and CBD.

5 I am personally based out of the
6 Aurora office. Cultivate Me is curators by trade
7 but consumers by choice. Cultivate Me is a
8 community of enthusiastic and discerning early
9 adopters seeking to live the best CBD and THC of
10 lives.

11 I can say we are at the leading edge
12 of technology and advancements, but that is to
13 say this is a cutting-edge process. However,
14 marijuana is neither new nor unproven. It's
15 medicinal uses have been legal in Illinois since
16 2013. And the first dispensaries opened to
17 cardholding public in September of 2014.

18 As early as April 2019, over 62,000
19 qualified patients have participated in the
20 State's medical cannabis and opioid alternative
21 programs. In a state that needs money for just
22 about everything, we should be taking every
23 chance we can to reap the benefits of the
24 taxation of recreational marijuana.

1 There will be a very small amount of
2 new users. However, the amount of legal, taxable
3 users will increase exponentially. Pharmacannis
4 North Aurora now Verilife is 3.3 miles away from
5 where I'm standing. Just far enough away that us
6 here in Aurora will not be reaping the benefit of
7 that tax revenue.

8 Having a dispensary within our
9 borders will not increase high driving as Aurora
10 is surrounded by dispensaries in other towns. In
11 fact, by refusing to allow dispensaries within
12 our borders, we'll be encouraging the already
13 thriving black market.

14 It is this black market that your
15 grandmother is afraid of. It is this black
16 market that throws a little something extra on
17 top that provides the cartridges that have caused
18 the great vaping crisis of 2019. It was a weird
19 vitamin E thing that caused all of the panic. It
20 wasn't good dispensary quality stuff.

21 Safe, regulated marijuana should be
22 encouraged within our borders, so I ask you to
23 kindly consider allowing recreational
24 dispensaries within our borders, not just so we

1 can increase the taxes that would, of course,
2 benefit schools, roads and the other needs of
3 this magnificent city, but because it would
4 benefit the community not just fiscally but
5 socially as the user safety and the decreasing
6 drug trafficking should be a priority.

7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

9 Anyone else in the first row?

10 If not, why don't we go to the
11 second row. Sir?

12 MR. MACGREGOR: Thank you very much, members
13 of the city planning commission. I was hoping
14 there would be --

15 CHAIRMAN PILMER: If I can just have you
16 state your name.

17 MR. MACGREGOR: Oh, I'm sorry. Bob
18 MacGregor, 394 Vaughn Circle, Aurora.

19 I was hoping there would be more
20 city council members here tonight. I served four
21 terms in the Minneapolis City council and was one
22 of the leaders with the planning commission in
23 Minneapolis and I helped start the Metropolitan
24 Council in the Twin Cities which is the planning

1 group.

2 And years ago a mayor of Chicago
3 appointed me commissioner of planning for the
4 City of Chicago, so I've been involved in
5 planning for a long time.

6 I'm here tonight -- we all know
7 marijuana has been legalized in Illinois. But
8 it's mislabeled and there is really much
9 information and you will hear a lot of it
10 tonight, I suspect.

11 Today's marijuana is not the old
12 marijuana that you all are familiar with when you
13 grew up. It is six to 20 times stronger. It's a
14 dangerous drug and citizens are clueless about
15 this -- this new drug and how dangerous it is.
16 And it is definitely a gateway drug to heroin and
17 other tough drugs.

18 Those of us who have lost loved ones
19 to heroin and have worked with medical people and
20 law enforcement people are -- know that it's
21 absolutely a dangerous gateway drug.

22 And the Mexican drug lords who have
23 corrupted Mexico are among the strongest
24 supporters for legalization because they make

1 their money on fentanyl and heroin and they know
2 that it's a gateway drug.

3 Drug abuse in the United States, as
4 we know, is very serious. Some 70,000 people die
5 every year. And marijuana fits in there
6 somewhere and we ought to be very, very
7 concerned. We all need to do more to confront
8 this -- this real problem all over the country.
9 And it's hitting the suburbs big time, as you
10 know.

11 According to the National Institute
12 of Health, where marijuana is used among
13 teenagers, it increases 24 percent. Next, mental
14 illness and psychiatric disorders have
15 substantially increased where marijuana was used.
16 This is one of the best books you can get on this
17 by Alexander Berenson, a former New York Times
18 reporter. And he has been quoted often on this
19 and he's met with the top medical people all over
20 the world to document that what this does to
21 especially teenage brains, lowers IQ some
22 8 percent or more.

23 And next we know that wherever it
24 has been legalized, traffic accidents have

1 increased substantially. And the law enforcement
2 officials here in Aurora and elsewhere do not
3 have the proper tools to test suspects.

4 Now, on taxes, I know all of us
5 involved in the government we need taxes. What
6 they're finding in communities that have
7 legalized it, there is so many other increased
8 costs with traffic costs, crime that goes up,
9 hospital visits and so on that it almost becomes
10 a wash. You don't get all that tax revenue that
11 people keep talking about.

12 And so I will conclude by saying
13 this is a time for leadership, a time to -- and,
14 by the way, I teach leadership all over the
15 world. And I'm an old guy still trying to stay
16 on the case. So I hope that you will stand up
17 and vote to opt out. And this is a dangerous,
18 dangerous drug.

19 Thank you very much for listening.
20 And I have a longer statement that I sent to
21 members of the city council and I'll leave my
22 statement with somebody here.

23 So thank you and onward and upward
24 with confidence. Thank you for your service.

1 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

2 Okay. We'll proceed again across
3 that second row. Anyone else want to speak?

4 Please come forward.

5 MS. LOGMAN: Hi. My name is Margie Logman.
6 I live at 495 North Lake Street.

7 Is this on? Can you hear me okay?

8 CHAIRMAN PILMER: I can hear you, but it's
9 not on.

10 MS. LOGMAN: All right. That's okay. My
11 name is Marjorie Logman. I live at 495 North
12 Lake Street here in Aurora. It looks like from
13 the previous speakers I should qualify myself.
14 I'm a very upbeat grandma, definitely not a
15 Puritan and a loyal democrat.

16 And what I want to say, things that
17 are happening in Aurora lately have given me
18 great concern. My family -- my father's side
19 were big Kane County republicans and my mother's
20 side all work for the Daleys, so I had quite an
21 upbringing.

22 How crazy is it that we have these
23 town halls after the city council -- and I know
24 it was a deadline, but they passed the taxes. So

1 really they've already made up their mind. If
2 they didn't pass the taxes, it would be, you
3 know, up for question. Because some of these
4 town halls, I think, become more, you know, how
5 to appease the populous rather than really
6 listening to us and being an avenue for change
7 and I think that has to change very much.

8 Knowing it will not change minds
9 that have already been made up, I say no to
10 cannabis sales. Smoking is no good for lungs no
11 matter who rolls it. But I know you will go
12 ahead and vote for cash over health.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Okay. Anybody else in the
15 second row?

16 Please come forward.

17 MS. BARNETTE: Hi. Good evening. I'm
18 Danielle Barnette. I live at 3630 Fairfax Court
19 East in Aurora. I would like to say thanks to
20 the commission for this opportunity to speak and
21 be a part of the public process. I wanted to
22 urge the commission to opt in. And I would like
23 to ask a question.

24 Could someone please fill me in on

1 what the process is going forward after this town
2 hall? I know there was a bit mentioned on the
3 Facebook post. But can someone please like spell
4 it out for me so I know the due process and
5 what's going to happen going forward? Is it
6 going to come to a referendum, etcetera?

7 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Ed will answer that now and
8 explain the process starting tonight and going
9 forward.

10 MR. SIEBEN: So the planning commission, this
11 body, will make a recommendation. That
12 recommendation will go on to our building, zoning
13 and economic development committee which --
14 which -- which is made up of five alderman. And
15 that will be next Wednesday at 4:00 P. M., fifth
16 floor of this building. That's on October 9th.

17 From there, it will go to the city
18 council committee, the hall, on Tuesday,
19 October 15th at 5:00 P. M. And then it will go
20 on the city council agenda on Tuesday,
21 October 22nd at 6:00 P. M. in this room.

22 MS. BARNETTE: Thank you so much.

23 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Anybody else in
24 row two?

1 Okay. We'll start over here with
2 row three.

3 Please come forward.

4 MR. PEREZ: Hello. Thank you for allowing me
5 to speak today. My name is Alexander Perez, 1544
6 Soffisberg.

7 So I am the owner of the Grove
8 operational dispensary. I'm a social equity
9 applicant that is vying for one of the licenses
10 as are other individuals. I want to underline
11 that I'm a social equity applicant because Aurora
12 is one of the very few places outside of the city
13 of Chicago that actually has social equity zones.
14 I'm here to represent those individuals in the
15 City of Aurora that represent those areas, those
16 zones themselves.

17 If we opt out, we're giving another
18 blow to those communities that have already been
19 affected and further exclude the individuals who
20 should have a seat at the table. I commend the
21 State and the governor for their efforts to
22 address the disparity, but I hope that Aurora
23 will opt in and give those affected a chance to
24 gain and give back to those communities like the

1 Grove would like to do.

2 The city has a chance of great
3 opportunity for many minority individuals that
4 have been negatively impacted by the misguided
5 war on drugs. The map put out by the State
6 detailing disadvantaged communities covers a
7 large portion of the city of Aurora.

8 It would be a misstep to not open
9 the doors for so many individuals that -- to
10 contribute to this community and for individuals
11 that belong in those communities.

12 Thank you again for your time.

13 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

14 Next in row three, would anyone like
15 to come forward?

16 Please come forward.

17 MS. WANG: Hello, everyone. My name is Jing
18 Wang. My address 2974 Savannah Drive in Aurora.
19 So my husband and I have lived in this city for
20 about 11 years and we raise our daughter here.
21 About three years ago, the daughter of our
22 neighbor, a nine-year-old little girl, was killed
23 in a car accident.

24 The minivan she was in was hit by a

1 car going about 85 miles an hour in a
2 35-mile-per-hour zone in the wrong lane. The
3 high alcohol level and marijuana was detected in
4 the body of this perpetrator driver. And later
5 the driver was sentenced 13 years in jail.

6 Our neighborhood lost a wonderful
7 sweet and loving little girl. And now our
8 daughter, who is right here, lost one of her best
9 friends, too.

10 In addition to the health-related
11 problems, there is no doubt that using marijuana
12 leads to more traffic accidents, especially fatal
13 accidents. High (inaudible) drug traffic areas
14 program reported that in Colorado things --
15 recreational marijuana was legalized,
16 marijuana-related traffic deaths increased
17 151 percent.

18 The officers, if you opt in to allow
19 selling recreational marijuana, more and more
20 such tragedies like what happened to this
21 nine-year-old little girl will happen in Aurora.
22 How could you look at the eyes of the parents who
23 lost their kids and tell them, sorry, tax is more
24 important than people's life and safety, so I

1 decide to choose tax and revenue over your
2 children's life or your beloved family member's
3 life.

4 And furthermore, if we allow selling
5 recreational marijuana, we're sending a very
6 dangerous and misleading message to our kids,
7 that using marijuana is not a maleficence. It's
8 acceptable and is easily accessible.

9 Some people may argue that if you
10 don't want your kids to use marijuana, you should
11 teach them at home to make them the right choice.
12 Unfortunately, I'm not that sure about that. I'm
13 not confident. Let's ask ourself a question.
14 We're all parents.

15 How many hours per day could we
16 spend with our kids? I would say four to five
17 hours at most if sleeping time is not included.
18 And kids spend way more time at school and also
19 hanging out with their friends.

20 We all know what peer pressure is
21 and how people, especially young kids, could be
22 influenced by peer pressure. If all my daughter
23 friends use marijuana and she still refuse, she
24 will be isolated or even bullied. I'm just not

1 that confident that she could make the right
2 choice under such pressure and the temptation
3 around her.

4 So, please, opt out. Please keep
5 our city a safe, strong and healthy environment
6 to each family to live. No matter how thirsty we
7 are, we should never drink poisonous water. We
8 don't need drug profit to develop our hometown.
9 May God bless America and God bless Aurora.

10 Thank you.

11 So may I suggest if the people in
12 the audience support -- agree with me, let them
13 stand up.

14 CHAIRMAN PILMER: I would just ask that we
15 keep order here, so if we can just go on to the
16 next speaker.

17 MS. WANG: Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Please come forward.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good evening,
20 Commissioner. My name is Elon (phonetic). You
21 may also call me Ricky. That beautiful lady gave
22 a very emotional speech is my wife, so probably I
23 don't have to state my address again.

24 Many people who support recreational

1 marijuana believe the City may increase revenue
2 via collecting sale taxes. Is that true or a
3 myth? Here are some lessons we can learn from
4 our neighbor Canada where marijuana has been
5 legalized for almost a year.

6 During the first quarter after
7 legalization, Canada's top marijuana growers lost
8 near \$300 million. I'm talking about the
9 currency of Canadian dollar for the rest of my
10 speech. It is also reported that British
11 Columbia marijuana store is still losing money
12 today. Yes, you hear me correct. They're still
13 losing money.

14 And will state marijuana store is to
15 lose 25 million Canadian dollar in the first full
16 year even though it has the monopoly of sales for
17 the six months and had the permanent control of
18 all land transaction.

19 Canadian marijuana sale was about
20 5.9 billion for the first quarter -- excuse my --
21 for the first quarter of 2018. The black market
22 account for 4.7 out of the 5.9, nearly
23 80 percent. Even the CEO of Canadian leading
24 legal marijuana company admitted that, quote,

1 black market business has never been better.

2 All that to say from very reliable
3 resource. Just Google Canadian legal marijuana
4 losing money. You'll find more news like this.

5 So people are asking why. The
6 reasons are very simple. The price in legalized
7 store just could not compete with the black
8 market. The price in legal store is more than
9 \$10 per rip, while less than 6 in black market.

10 Legal store need to have physical
11 stores. And black market, they use street.
12 Legal stores have to hire salaried employees.
13 And for the black market, most are self employed
14 and most of them are consumed themselves.

15 Therefore, it is highly unrealistic
16 that marijuana will bring significant tax revenue
17 to our city. But I know for sure it will pay for
18 the cost of all the negative effects, increased
19 crime rate, increased traffic accident rate,
20 increased cost and decrease working efficiency.

21 I would like to end my speech with
22 two more stories my parents told me when I was a
23 kid. First, it's stupid to paint a cake to
24 satisfy your hunger. And second, you should

1 never quench your thirst with poisoned water.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

4 Anybody else in row three?

5 MS. HU: Good evening. My name is Kui Hu.

6 I'm from Plainfield, but Aurora is actually -- I
7 consider it part of the, you know, community that
8 we live in because I lived in Naperville and I
9 used to bring my kids to Aurora like, you know --

10 CHAIRMAN PILMER: If we can maybe straighten
11 that mic, I think it may help. And if you could
12 state your street address as well, please.

13 MS. HU: My address is 11530 Century Circle,
14 Plainfield. I feel like I'm part of the Aurora
15 community and that's why I feel like I should
16 come to the meeting and speak up.

17 I appreciate the chance to speak to
18 you tonight and urge you to consider to opt out
19 of selling recreational cannabis in the City of
20 Aurora for the benefit of its citizens and
21 especially for the well-being of the younger
22 generations.

23 Allowing for cannabis retail sale in
24 the city increases the likelihood of more fatal

1 traffic accidents as mentioned by the gentlemen
2 and the lady from earlier. But I would like to
3 bring some source of facts from Colorado.

4 As revealed in the report named by
5 Impacts of Marijuana Legalization in Colorado
6 Released By the Colorado Division of Criminal
7 Justice of Research and Statistics on October 26,
8 2018, the number of fatalities where a driver
9 tested positive for any cannabinoid almost
10 triples from the year 2013 to 2017.

11 Organized crime cases almost
12 quadrupled from 2012 to 2017. So it is crucial
13 for the City to make consistent decisions that
14 continue to maintain a safe environment for the
15 200,000-plus residents.

16 Also as parents, it is our job to do
17 our very best to provide a clean and healthy
18 environment for our children. Studies show that
19 at least 10 percent of those who use marijuana
20 become addicted.

21 And as mentioned by the gentlemen
22 earlier, that marijuana is known to be the
23 gateway drug to more addictive drugs such as
24 heroin. Marijuana addictions are related to many

1 growth problems such as brain damage, mental
2 issues and decreased school performance just to
3 name a few.

4 If we don't want marijuana to be
5 easily accessible to our children, there is no
6 reason to make it easily accessible to other
7 people. It is difficult to say no to
8 temptations.

9 The presumed tax revenue from
10 commercial recreational marijuana sales and the
11 margin of convenience it brings to those who need
12 it for medical reasons must be weighted with the
13 definitive foreseeable expense of social cost if
14 marijuana becomes widely available.

15 So I'm here to urge the members of
16 the city council to opt out.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

19 Going across row three -- and just a
20 reminder that if you haven't signed in, please
21 make sure you do so to the right here as you come
22 up.

23 MR. VINCENT: John Vincent, 1248 Oakleaf
24 Court here in Aurora. I would -- one thing I

1 would just ask is what is the benefit to the
2 city? I can only think of one and that's even
3 dubious. We know what that is. Tax revenue.

4 But the unintended consequences are
5 employers out of Colorado trying to find somebody
6 that can pass a drug test for construction jobs,
7 bus drivers, CDL drivers, etcetera, where you
8 have to pass a drug test is exceedingly hard.

9 You look at what those employers have to go
10 through to try to find one candidate that's
11 qualified yet can pass a drug test.

12 Aurora police -- I just read this
13 today from the Illinois police. What viable test
14 do we have for what really is the highest level
15 or higher level of THC in the bloodstream that
16 causes a DUI? Is there really a good measurement
17 for it?

18 As far as our young people that was
19 talked about, we know about the deleterious
20 effects on their brains. But who knows what's in
21 the candy. I mean, they have edibles. Who knows
22 what's in the candy that somebody is going to
23 give to our kids? Or do they care? Do our kids
24 know what they're getting?

1 And this is -- I read this and this
2 is -- I just put down really. In the state of
3 Illinois, here is -- here is the law. You're not
4 supposed to smoke in public places. Really? In
5 cars. Really? School grounds, okay, maybe. In
6 proximity, whatever that means, of anyone under
7 21. Really?

8 In proximity of a bus driver. Okay.
9 In proximity of a police officer. That probably
10 would work. In proximity of a firefighter. In
11 proximity of a corrections officer. Really? How
12 is that going to be enforced? And if you do
13 smoke in the proximity of a public place or in
14 your car, what's the penalty for that?

15 That's what the law is supposed to
16 be.

17 So going back to -- well, the one
18 benefit, a couple of -- as someone pointed out in
19 Colorado, hospitalizations from marijuana related
20 after legalization increased 148 percent from
21 2012 to 2016. Marijuana-related ER visits
22 increased 52 percent in the same timeframe.

23 So please opt out.

24 MS. VINCENT: Hi. Mary Ann Vincent, 1248

1 Oakleaf Court. Most of my comments are about the
2 unintended consequences of legalized recreational
3 marijuana.

4 My first two comments, I'll number
5 them, but are from an ER doctor, Dr. Samuel Wang,
6 W-a-n-g. Today's marijuana, this is kind of
7 redundant, but there is more to it, is 20 percent
8 more potent than the marijuana from the '60s and
9 '70s which was 3.7 percent. Today's is
10 80 percent. But each person or anyone who buys
11 this cannot be certain because some cannabis
12 concentrates can get close to 100 percent. Who
13 is regulating this?

14 And children as young as two years
15 old are getting into their caregiver's -- this is
16 from Colorado where they've had legalized
17 marijuana since about 2014. I saw a couple
18 dates. But, anyway, getting into caregiver's
19 cannabis, 27 percent increase in children and
20 teens needing emergency treatment for marijuana
21 toxicity.

22 Now, the rest of my comments are
23 from Newsweek. I looked online. It's from
24 today's date, Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019.

1 There is higher marijuana intoxicated driving.
2 There is illegal movement of legally grown
3 cannabis, for instance, from Colorado to other
4 states or Illinois to other states where it's
5 illegal. There are educational problems in
6 middle school and high school.

7 And back to children, and my husband
8 mentioned this, the edible marijuana. People put
9 it in brownies. You know, kids are gonna eat
10 this. So it's a higher -- higher ER visits with
11 edible consumption by children and pets relating
12 in illness and death.

13 There is regulatory or potency
14 confusion, number seven. I haven't been listing
15 all my numbers, but these are all un- -- excuse
16 me -- all unintended consequences. The cost of
17 increased law enforcement because of drug driving
18 accidents, fatal crashes, loss of productivity,
19 increased gang crime. So we have to question the
20 cost of these benefit of any tax dollars.

21 And in Colorado there is a high teen
22 drug expulsion. Is that really what we want?
23 Next, a homeless population will explode because
24 people are nonfunctioning.

1 I used to live in Colorado. I went
2 to college there. My dad lived there, visited
3 there frequently, was there in the '60s and '70s.
4 I went back there. We have a daughter there. It
5 looked like a flashback. People just asking us
6 for money. They don't want it for food. They
7 want it to get high.

8 People aren't going to work.
9 They're just sleeping. So, anyway, it's a major
10 problem. And homelessness exploded in Colorado.
11 Tourist dollars in Colorado went to marijuana,
12 not to visit the beautiful state of Colorado.
13 That's where the tourist dollars went.

14 And there is also a marginal impact
15 because any increased tax revenue -- the percent,
16 I didn't write it down -- but anyway, it's a
17 higher cost of all these other things needing
18 increased law enforcement and everything.

19 As of March 2019, Colorado cannabis
20 growers have been left to improvise since
21 their -- no commercial pesticides labeled for
22 legal use on cannabis plants. So there has been
23 misuse of pesticides. So there are improvised
24 concoctions of chemicals including undefinable

1 mixtures. So what is going on? Who is
2 regulating this?

3 My last point, forget the notion
4 that prisons filled with minor drug offenders
5 would be relieved. Well, it's blown out of
6 proportion in Colorado.

7 We should learn from states who have
8 had this legal for over five years. There is
9 much to be learned. This is going to cost way
10 more than we think we're going to gain. And we
11 will need to build more drug rehab. If this does
12 pass, I hope there is going to be some of this
13 so-called profit for the drug rehab that will be
14 needed. As -- as has already been said, it's a
15 gateway drug.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

18 Next in the third row.

19 MS. WILLIAMS: Victoria Williams, 3491 Willow
20 View Court, City of Aurora. Thank you for
21 holding this.

22 With the legalization of cannabis in
23 Illinois, I would like to submit a proposal to
24 the City of Aurora offering residents vendor

1 training, general education and social equity
2 programs to the community.

3 In this newly regulated market, it
4 is important that we not only adhere to the laws
5 but that people know that there is a safe way for
6 cannabis to be distributed, consumed and
7 disposed.

8 We believe it also helps dispel the
9 negative connotation around cannabis. Aurora
10 Cannabis Consultants was the first approved
11 responsible vendor in the state of Illinois. The
12 training courses that we provide include a wide
13 range of topics like health and safety, inventory
14 tracking and labeling requirements.

15 We deliver the training in an
16 interactive classroom setting that breaks down
17 the 610-page HB1438 law in a comprehensive way
18 for everyone to understand using our
19 state-approved name.

20 Currently the only agents that are
21 required to receive this training are those
22 involved in handling the sale or cannabis -- the
23 sale of cannabis or cannabis infused products.

24 However, we feel training is

1 necessary for everyone and we provide a
2 customizable training program to serve the
3 masses. In addition to the State required
4 training, we provide additional training courses
5 to the communities affected by social economic
6 injustices surrounding cannabis through our Put
7 Illinois Back to Work program.

8 This program covers a wide variety
9 of many trainings that are much needed in the
10 workplace. A few examples are customer service
11 skills, problem solving, interview skills, phone
12 and email etiquette, sales techniques and
13 marketing.

14 As stated previously, this program
15 is customizable to fit any age and/or educational
16 level. Aurora Cannabis Consultants also provide
17 marketing materials for the public outreach
18 campaign. With over five years of educating the
19 public and marketing cannabis, we believe that
20 this partnership will benefit us both a great
21 deal.

22 The State of Illinois has already
23 released grant applications to apply for funding
24 for community colleges and other educational

1 institutes to aid in education, training in this
2 market.

3 I am willing to email that
4 information to the entire committee and -- as
5 long as I get your contact information. I'll get
6 it offline.

7 Recreational marijuana creates jobs.
8 It brings down unemployment rates. Crime
9 typically happens in communities highly affected
10 by poverty, the disproportionate area that
11 Illinois has talked about giving the social
12 equity status to.

13 Cannabis development program is an
14 option for the City of Aurora. We create
15 information for the city websites. We can
16 designate a green zone. We're willing to create
17 a city compliant guideline.

18 And we have also on our own, not
19 from the State, created something called How to
20 Spot Fake Vapes. I believe that every parent
21 here is concerned about the safety of their
22 children. I, too, am a parent who have a special
23 needs child.

24 So we created a program called How

1 to Spot Fake Vapes, vape cartridges. That's what
2 they're talking about now that has everyone in
3 fear.

4 And what the City of Aurora does not
5 know is that there is a brunch of copycats out
6 here and the copycats is easily to be done. They
7 order these things offline and say that they look
8 just like the name brand, but they're not.

9 Cannabis does not just consist of
10 smoking. Cannabis also involves topicals that
11 are not just THC, but they are THC/CBD that does
12 not get you high. Everyone is not using cannabis
13 to get high.

14 As I said before, I respect the
15 opinion of every concerned parent here today. I
16 am a concerned parent myself. The State HB1338
17 bill is extremely thorough as it relates to what
18 product will look like and package safety and the
19 regulations that keep our city safe. If you do
20 not know, packaging has to be done so children
21 cannot open it.

22 If you do not know, the dispensaries
23 will help keep residents from getting potential
24 laced tainted product which also will cut down on

1 the opioid addiction. If you do not know, then
2 we're here to help you. Allow us to come in.

3 Our facility is located already in
4 Aurora, located 853 North Highland Avenue. We
5 were the very first to get approved to actually
6 allow dispensary agent training. It's on the
7 press release issued by the governor.

8 It's 26 other vendors in the entire
9 state of Illinois that was approved to do this
10 training. We have did something to keep the city
11 safe if you will allow us to keep the city safe.

12 As far as the safety of vape carts,
13 I would just like to show three poses, these
14 photos on my iPad, that just talks about how to
15 spot vape cartridges. And I know everybody won't
16 see it, but we have created a program already
17 (indicating) so teens and children will have the
18 option and the opportunity to learn about the
19 potential harms of cannabis.

20 Do not buy it off the street. Allow
21 you guys to opt in and say yes to regulating
22 cannabis will actually keep our children safe.
23 They wouldn't be allowed to buy it on the
24 streets. You know, even though they say 21, it's

1 still a kid to me. So I'll say the age limit is
2 21. It's still a child. And if he's able to go
3 into the dispensary, he will be safer using
4 cannabis legally.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Anybody else in row three?

7 MS. UN: Hello everybody. My name is Ling
8 Un. I'm the landlord of the 3138 Ridgeland Lane
9 in Aurora. I want to encourage you to option out
10 recreation of marijuana sales in Aurora. I feel
11 like marijuana for the people in the town is bad.

12 According to researchers, marijuana
13 is harmful for health, specially for the brain.
14 Mix alcohol and the marijuana together can
15 endanger life, especially for the people who is
16 lack self-control, who always want to but cannot
17 control himself, for that people.

18 And then the tax, again, from
19 selling marijuana will not be enough to cover a
20 broad source that you can bring to our city. Is
21 it easier for our city to turn bad than to turn
22 good? In conclusion, to keep City of Aurora safe
23 here, I strongly ask commissioner to deny
24 marijuana sales in Aurora.

1 Thank you for your attention.

2 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Anybody else in
3 row three?

4 Okay. Let's move to row four on
5 this side.

6 MR. TOVAR: Hello. My name is Juan Tovar,
7 1230 Solfisburg Avenue, Aurora, Illinois. Thank
8 you for allowing me for this opportunity to talk
9 to you fine people today.

10 As an Auroran citizen, this is my
11 hometown, I grew up here since the time I was
12 three years old. And I think -- I know what it's
13 like to be a minority and to be targeted in
14 Aurora for illegal use of drugs. And I've had
15 many friends affected negatively from marijuana
16 possession, even my family for -- and have had
17 many lost job opportunities and had it negatively
18 impact their record.

19 And I feel it isn't just since it is
20 not criminalized. I think in my opinion,
21 legalizing will undercut the black market and
22 keep it out of the children of -- hands as it
23 will be harder for them to reach -- to reach them
24 in illegal sources.

1 And when used by responsible adults,
2 it would be -- it would be a great opportunity as
3 a business owner to bring this to Aurora.

4 Thank you for the opportunity to
5 talk and for legalizing marijuana for
6 recreational use.

7 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Next in row four?

8 MR. GARCIAS: Hey. Ed Garcias, (phonetic)
9 Drive. I was not planning to talk, so if I sound
10 like an idiot, it's because I am.

11 CHAIRMAN PILMER: If you could just state the
12 city.

13 MR. GARCIAS: Aurora.

14 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

15 MR. GARCIAS: First of all, I'm opt out.
16 Especially young people are complacent and stupid
17 enough that we don't need the City to stamp
18 another thing -- to give their stamp approval of
19 another thing to keep us more stupid and more
20 complacent.

21 And second, I would like to address
22 the argument that the tax revenue will -- is any
23 good. Our problem is not a revenue problem. Our
24 problem is a spending problem. We can't just

1 keep moving the goalpost and pretending
2 everything is okay.

3 That's all.

4 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

5 Row four, going across.

6 MR. BASTIAN: Good evening, ladies and
7 gentlemen. I'm probably going to echo a little
8 bit of what this gentleman here said. And I know
9 he said he's an old guy. Well, I'm not --
10 probably a little bit younger than him, but --

11 CHAIRMAN PILMER: If you can just state your
12 name and address for the record, please.

13 MR. BASTIAN: Kevin Bastian. I live at 891
14 Laurel Drive in Aurora.

15 Ladies and gentlemen, I stand today
16 to oppose the sale of recreational marijuana in
17 the City of Aurora. The reasons I have are many,
18 but first and foremost is the fact that
19 recreational marijuana is harmful to a person's
20 health.

21 Now, some may justify and say that
22 alcohol and cigarettes are harmful, but they're
23 still legal. While there will always be
24 individuals that will abuse alcohol and tobacco,

1 tobacco is not a mind-altering drug. And small
2 amounts of alcohol, especially red wine, has
3 significant health benefits. Recreational
4 marijuana does not. And, in fact, when people
5 mix alcohol and marijuana, which will surely
6 happen, the combination becomes deadly.

7 Real quick, a little story. When I
8 was 20 years old one night, I had been out
9 drinking beer and smoking pot. On the way home
10 driving up Route 25 just north of Butterfield
11 Road about a block and a half from where I lived
12 in North Aurora, I passed out behind the wheel
13 and woke up just as I was going down an
14 embankment of about a 45-degree angle as my car
15 wedged against a tree.

16 And luckily the tree prevented my
17 car from overturning. Thankfully the North
18 Aurora police were in the area, had a tow truck
19 pull my car out. And when they saw I lived
20 nearby, escorted me nearby without ticketing or
21 arresting me. But that little incident is beside
22 the point.

23 There is also a mountain of evidence
24 that concludes that marijuana use leads to

1 psychosis and mental illness as well as
2 respiratory and lung damage to chronic users.
3 God made our bodies the way he did for a reason.
4 Fish die without water and human beings die
5 without air. The only thing you should be
6 breathing in your lungs is O2. Anything else is
7 harmful.

8 But, you know, ladies and gentlemen,
9 I suggest this meeting tonight is just a token
10 meeting held to pacify the public that we have
11 some say in this matter. But from the
12 information I have read so far, it seems to me
13 the City has already made up its mind.

14 The chief financial officers and
15 other city revenue officials are already licking
16 their chops with dollar signs in their eyes
17 discussing at what percentage to levee the tax on
18 revenue from the sale of marijuana.

19 Now, I suggest we're gonna hear all
20 manner of justification for voting to pass this
21 resolution. It will use all kinds of semantics
22 such as people are going to use it anyway and
23 it's gonna cost us money anyway so why not tax
24 its use.

1 They will turn a blind eye all in
2 pursuit of the almighty dollar. It's nothing but
3 a big cash cow. But that doesn't make it right.

4 And if you think about it, if the
5 City passes this, they're actually encouraging
6 people to use marijuana. Now, they may say
7 things like we're just making it available to
8 people who will use it anyway.

9 But think about it, ladies and
10 gentlemen, if people don't patronize the
11 facility, that means no revenue for the City.
12 The whole point of opening a successful business
13 is to do everything you can to make sure it
14 succeeds.

15 So the City has to promote the new
16 business. A quote from the Beacon News said
17 officials favor a 2 percent tax as a compromise
18 between getting revenue and attracting high end
19 marijuana stores. No pun intended.

20 One official said we're looking at
21 being competitive. But ladies and gentlemen, if
22 you were to ask our fine mayor and the city
23 council -- I may make you laugh with a few of my
24 comments here.

1 But if you were to ask the mayor and
2 the city counsel if they smoked marijuana, I
3 don't think I need to tell you what their answer
4 would be. I'm going to leave this comment out
5 about the governor because I don't want to be
6 politically incorrect.

7 But I get emails all the time from
8 the City of Aurora of all the great things our
9 city has to offer, things such as empowering our
10 youth. Well, how does letting a recreational
11 marijuana facility descend on the City of Aurora
12 help empower our youth?

13 What kind of message does that send
14 to the youth of our city, even if they are 21, to
15 have a temptation like that at their disposal?
16 There may be some kid who is facing some
17 overwhelming problems in his life when he feels
18 the pressures of life are getting him down might
19 just say some night I think I'll go down to the
20 corner store and buy some pot get high to ease
21 the pain.

22 Ladies and gentlemen, I mentioned
23 earlier successful business has to be promoted.
24 This poses a little dilemma for the City. Like

1 all businesses, there certainly should be a
2 ribbon cutting for the grand opening. Charlie's
3 Silver Spoon Creamery opened right down the block
4 on the corner of Stolp and Downer and I believe
5 the mayor and a few city officials had some ice
6 cream with the new owners.

7 So I have a question. Will the
8 mayor and the city council have a joint with the
9 owners of the new marijuana facility? If not,
10 why not? It's the height of hypocrisy.

11 The message at the ice cream parlor
12 was come on down and enjoy what this new business
13 has to offer which in this case is some delicious
14 ice cream. Well, why not the same at the
15 marijuana facility? It's laughable.

16 Maybe we'll start to see ads in the
17 newspaper and on billboards throughout the city.
18 Here, I wrote the first one.

19 Come on down, folks, and patronize
20 this business and experience what great quality
21 weed they have to offer, a smooth taste and a
22 mellow high that you will love will -- with just
23 the right amount of THC to relax your mind, fry
24 your brain, forget your troubles, get your

1 creative juices flowing and give you that
2 euphoria you crave. But remember to smoke
3 responsibly and don't smoke and drive.

4 I ask responsible citizens to stand
5 with me and urge the mayor and the city council
6 to oppose this in the City of Aurora.

7 And I'll end my little tirade with a
8 quote that was going back in the '70s. Only
9 dopes smoke dope.

10 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Mr. Bastian, I might
11 clarify one point. You did say that you think
12 this is a token meeting. So on behalf of
13 everyone here, the commission is made up
14 volunteer Aurora citizens that serve as plan
15 commission members and we do take our
16 responsibility serious.

17 MR. BASTIAN: I understand.

18 CHAIRMAN PILMER: So we're here as a
19 sounding -- to listen to public testimony and
20 make a recommendation to the city council.

21 Anyone else in row four?

22 If we can go to row five, start on
23 this side.

24 MR. ZHANG: Good evening. My name is Greg

1 Zhang. I'm the landlord for 3170 East Winchester
2 Court, Aurora. My full-time job is a mechanic
3 engineer in a large manufacturing company. Today
4 I'm going to talk about the impact of marijuana
5 on employment.

6 Marijuana is a federally illegal
7 drug. And most companies or if not every company
8 strictly prohibit employees from using marijuana.
9 We have a drug screening process during hiring.
10 So if an applicant fail the drug test, the
11 application is automatically rejected. If an
12 employee is caught performing a duty under the
13 influence of marijuana or any other drug, he or
14 she subject to termination.

15 CDL that one gentlemen mentioned,
16 commercial driver's license holders or sometimes
17 called truck drivers, they are frequently and
18 randomly selected for drug test including
19 marijuana under the federal regulations. So if
20 they fail the test, they are subject to
21 termination of the company policy, as well.

22 So in summary, to help more people
23 finding jobs or keep them employed, please opt
24 out.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

3 Next in row five?

4 MR. CHEN: Good evening, ladies and
5 gentlemen. My name is Hungting Chen. I live at
6 990 Meadowridge Drive, City of Aurora.

7 Today I'm here to against allowing
8 recreation of marijuana sales at Aurora. And
9 here the reason why I came to that.

10 First I believe we will jeopardize
11 our community safety at Aurora with just the
12 question about the tax revenues which already
13 people talk about it, so I won't repeat again.
14 But we will increase the criminal rate and also
15 increase the safety concerns.

16 Second, I have really concern
17 regarding to the -- once we open the business,
18 the marijuana become (inaudible) causing a lot of
19 issues.

20 Like the gentleman mention before,
21 outcome we also have those drug tests randomly.
22 What if someone action is buying marijuana and
23 bring to the food and sell to the public? Maybe
24 you get -- someone doesn't know and perhaps me or

1 you and eat that and eat that food and without
2 knowing that and now we just failed a test and
3 lost a job.

4 What if we give this food to the
5 children? So, therefore, I strongly request
6 hoping the City of Aurora can opt out to the
7 sales of recreational marijuana use.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

10 MS. HUANG: Good evening. My name is Wei
11 Huang. I live in 990 Meadowridge Drive in
12 Aurora. And I live in Aurora for more than five
13 years. I love this city so, therefore, I
14 encourage you to oppose recreational marijuana
15 sales in our city.

16 So earlier this morning -- this
17 evening when I left home, I was holding this
18 (indicating) and my kids saw it. And my little
19 son asked me, Mommy, that's a sign for no poison
20 ivy? And at that moment I thought it would be
21 great that it was that easy, no poison ivy. But
22 it is not.

23 And that moment hit me that I
24 remember I first know the word "marijuana" when I

1 was in college. And since then, this word didn't
2 appear in my life very often until recently. And
3 now my little boy may have to know this word when
4 he is only three -- only five years old. So I
5 feel sad about that.

6 So that encourage me to come here to
7 protect our kids from exposing to marijuana so
8 early and so often than they should. It's not
9 just the father or mother's job because we are
10 talking recreational marijuana. It's not
11 medical.

12 Allowing recreational medical sales
13 sends a signal to the kids that marijuana is
14 okay, it is not big deal. It is not. It is not
15 okay. Marijuana especially dangerous for young
16 people because human brains are not fully
17 developed until they are age -- when they are age
18 25 which is about the age of the legal age that
19 they can project marijuana.

20 And also researchers in Harvard and
21 Northwestern found that recreational marijuana
22 smokers age from -- from 18 to 25 show
23 abnormalities in the shape, volume and density of
24 certain areas of the brain. Those fact

1 consequences tend not to reverse but will
2 increase mental health problems.

3 Also, marijuana is addictive. And
4 the dependency on drugs will increase with
5 legalization. Among cocaine, alcohol and
6 marijuana, which one is the most difficult to
7 give up? Marijuana.

8 And I know that maybe you were
9 saying you train your kids and make them aware
10 that it is harmful for you. But think about
11 that. We all have to pass a written test and a
12 driving test to get our driver's license. Can
13 everybody drive safely?

14 So if brain or health is not enough
15 for you to say no, what about lives? Studies in
16 Colorado show dramatic increase in
17 marijuana-related traffic deaths since
18 recreational marijuana was legalized.

19 One person was killed every three
20 days in accidents where drivers were tested
21 positive for marijuana. We are talking about
22 losing people's lives due to the use of
23 marijuana. Lives are priceless. Lives are
24 priceless.

1 I send all my email to show my
2 concern to Mr. Mayor and the aldermen and one
3 replied to me saying that if we opt in -- if we
4 opt out, he's probably about losing the tax
5 revenue.

6 But I would like to -- in respond to
7 that, if we allow recreational marijuana sales in
8 Aurora, the city will, true, get tax revenues,
9 but the majority of the profit will still go to
10 those sales companies. The City will not get a
11 lot.

12 And we will need to pay for the bad
13 consequences with people's health, people's
14 lives, city's safety and the city's reputation
15 and much, much more money. And what we will get
16 will never measure up with what we need to pay.

17 So I strongly urge you to oppose
18 recreational marijuana sales in our city. And
19 this is not in my speech. But when I was looking
20 at their -- at the research about Colorado --
21 because, you know, every year they have this
22 annual report about Colorado since 2013.

23 And that reminds me of what, you
24 know? Reminds me of the time when I was working

1 in the lab. You know, in the lab they have like
2 testing animals like rats and then they put those
3 cancer materials into the rats to see how the
4 tumor grow.

5 And Colorado now, it looks like this
6 little rats to me, the little rats in the
7 experiment -- in the labs. And the recreational
8 marijuana is just like this material that cause
9 cancer. And let's not put this in our city, not
10 let the tumor has any opportunity to grow in our
11 home in our city.

12 Thank you for this opportunity.

13 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

14 Next in row five?

15 MS. WANG: Hello. Good evening, ladies and
16 gentlemen. My name is Jinfeng Wang. I live at
17 1104 Stonehaven Circle in Aurora. I have lived
18 in Aurora for 13 years. One of my two boys was
19 born in Aurora. They are now 11 and 17 attending
20 middle and high school. And I love this city and
21 the neighborhood because it is safe place to live
22 and raise children.

23 We are now in a desperation to find
24 a new revenue source to fix the state's financial

1 crisis. Illinois passed a law in June to allow
2 recreational marijuana sales and use.

3 But please keep in mind that federal
4 government still classifies marijuana as a
5 Schedule 1 drug which means it remains illegal.
6 According to the DEA, Schedule 1 drugs,
7 substances or chemicals are defined as drugs with
8 no currently accepted medical use and a high
9 potential for abuse.

10 This classification puts marijuana
11 in the same category as heroin. As this
12 gentleman said, today's marijuana is not the ones
13 in the '60s. The high potency is linked to
14 increases in addiction, psychosis and violence.

15 States that have legalized it like
16 Colorado have seen an increase in emergency room
17 visits, hospitalizations, poison control center
18 calls and the increasing in using every age
19 category including youth.

20 The frequent (phonetic) use with
21 adolescents can effect attention, memory,
22 decision-making and motivation. And that use --
23 and those people who are more likely to miss
24 classes, do poorly in school and drop out. And

1 marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug
2 among minors age 12 to 17 according to 2018
3 national survey on drug use and health.

4 Allowing recreational marijuana
5 sales in Aurora will make it more accessible to
6 our vulnerable children and make it more
7 dangerous than ever. I do not want marijuana
8 addicts and the recreational users driving in and
9 out of your community -- my community regularly
10 to purchase the drugs.

11 I do not want easy access of these
12 toxic substances to my children. Let's all take
13 actions to protect the safety of our kids and the
14 health of our community. I urge City of Aurora
15 to opt out of the sales of recreational
16 marijuana.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. WADDELL: Good evening. My name is Way
19 Waddell. I live in 5104 Stonehaven Circle,
20 Aurora. And I also have rental properties in
21 Aurora.

22 I urge the City of Aurora to opt out
23 recreational marijuana sales for the sake of our
24 next young generations. I work in human resource

1 department of an international law firm. I know
2 that if a candidate fails the drug test, the
3 candidate will definitely not get the job offer
4 no matter how good he is.

5 Allowing recreational marijuana sale
6 will make marijuana much easier, accessible to
7 public including teenagers. If they start to use
8 marijuana, it will not only have impact on their
9 health but also has huge impact on their career.
10 They will fail the drug test and in turn will not
11 find jobs. They will end up on the street.

12 I have two teenager boys. As a
13 father, I am really worried that if they start to
14 use marijuana, it will not only have bad impact
15 on their health but also have huge impact on
16 their career. For the future of our kids, for
17 the future of our new generations, I urge the
18 city council to opt out.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Next in row
21 five?

22 MR. GONZALEZ: Hello. My name is Javier
23 Gonzalez. I live on 720 Kingsway Court in
24 Aurora. I'm probably the more foremost authority

1 on this subject here in Aurora.

2 Back in the '70s, I would bring
3 200 pounds in a week into the city. It was four
4 of us and we all brought it, that amount. I'm
5 the only one that's left to come and tell you the
6 ravages of this drug. I'm very passionate about
7 it.

8 You know, and this -- it's as simple
9 as throwing the seeds off your back porch. Some
10 of the best stuff was -- was planted by accident.
11 Okay? You're not gonna make any money. Why --
12 why buy it when you can grow it for free and
13 better, okay?

14 I did all the drugs, heroin,
15 cocaine, everything, acid, everything. I was a
16 drug addict, but my drug of choice was marijuana.
17 I -- I would tell them, you guys take the coke, I
18 just want the marijuana. That was my -- and I
19 had a heck of a time quitting. Really, it was
20 devastating how much it had a grip on me.

21 We used -- and they talk about
22 marijuana back in the day? Well, back in the
23 day, yeah, I had to roll up my marijuana and I
24 had to put the TV on what was I gonna watch

1 because I didn't want to get all high and not be
2 able to turn off the TV because I didn't want to
3 watch Bozo's Circus.

4 I know what I'm talking about. This
5 is devastating. I've seen too many of my
6 friends -- a good portion are dead because of
7 this. You're not gonna make any money. You're
8 delusional if you think you are. I'm telling you
9 from facts. I've lived it. I've walked it. And
10 I'm an ordained minister here in Aurora. I'm a
11 small businessman. And I deal with this stuff
12 every day, you know?

13 But, anyway, I'm talking about --
14 I've been off the stuff for 40 years. 40 years.
15 But I've watched. I've observed it the whole
16 time because that was my -- my choice and I've
17 never seen one thing good come out of using
18 marijuana. Not one.

19 But I could name you hundreds, maybe
20 thousands of bad things. Not one. And I
21 challenge anybody -- other than maybe the medical
22 part of it, but people are going to check out of
23 society. They're not gonna want to work.

24 The only -- the only accident I was

1 ever in was because I was high on pot. And I
2 could have avoided it but because I was high, I
3 was (indicating) and I didn't -- I didn't take --
4 I didn't step on the accelerator to get out of
5 her way. It's devastating.

6 I urge you, you know, don't fool
7 yourselves about this. You know, and you're
8 delusional if you think you're going to make
9 money off of it because you can make it for
10 pennies.

11 Once you -- once you open the
12 floodgates, hey, just buy a -- a High Times
13 magazine. They will tell you how to grow it for
14 free and better. So I'm -- I'm urging you,
15 please, don't do it. Don't do it. I've been in
16 it too long. I know the answers, you know. And
17 there is a way and the way is Jesus. It's a
18 person. And I'm here to testify for that.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Anybody else in row five?

21 Okay. Let's go to this side on row
22 six.

23 MR. WU: Dear council members and the
24 committee members and mayor, my name is Rodger

1 Wu. I live in 1099 Stockton Court, Aurora.

2 First of all, I would like to thank
3 that gentleman who is very brave man. It's a
4 very touching story. I think he told his own
5 story. And now it's -- now it's your turn to
6 make a wise decision.

7 And I also appreciate the opinion
8 that the other gentleman talks about how
9 marijuana -- today's marijuana, how strong. And
10 it is different and due to different -- based on
11 a lot of marketing companies and that they sell
12 these things, the stores they sell these things,
13 they can make it very attractive to young people.

14 And now we really need to think. A
15 lot of people talk about revenues, tax dollars.
16 Several people already bring in the -- a lot of
17 data. Do we really think it will increase our
18 tax? How much cost we have to pay in order to
19 earn these tax dollars? And what about social
20 cost, like accidents or whatever? And a lot of
21 troubles because of that.

22 And do we really ignore the health
23 issues related to this? Now, we know long, long
24 time ago those big tobacco companies, they say

1 cigarettes is fine, has no health issue. And how
2 many years and after lawsuits after lawsuits and
3 people died and then eventually people decide,
4 cigarettes can cause cancer. How many times we
5 have to repeat these story in this country?

6 And last time several -- I guess
7 several probably weeks ago people talk about
8 E-cigarettes. And now we all know many people
9 have died, damage due to the lung and died of
10 these. So when these things happening, people
11 always say, okay, you know, we can't earn
12 dollars, we can't earn tax monies and a lot of
13 interest group be like that.

14 So another point, I live in Aurora
15 for more than 18 years, so I love the city. It's
16 a beautiful community. And we all know when you
17 own a home, you say location, location and
18 location. Ask each one of us, do we want a store
19 open next to my house? Do we want that?

20 I guess I really hope every one of
21 us make a wise decision, not driven by the
22 interest group, not by the tax dollar. It's
23 still questionable. But priority, what is our
24 priority of the city? Is the reputation, the

1 health, the wellness of the citizen or what else?
2 I urge you to opt out.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Next in row six, anybody
5 else?

6 MS. HE: My name is Qing He. I live at 1031
7 Courtland Place, Aurora, Illinois, for 15 years.

8 I have two daughter go to Matea High
9 School. So what happen is we have a large amount
10 of international community in Aurora. The reason
11 why I have a house here because good education
12 school, the system.

13 I just talk to a few investor
14 yesterday. They want to bring their kids to
15 Aurora to go to a Calvary church to go for school
16 district. And then we also have a shopping mall
17 on the 59 for Chinese business.

18 And I just want to see -- here is we
19 have young people from China come here to do --
20 to build relationship with young people in Aurora
21 to be able to bridging the -- a directory between
22 those countries. Even with bring the marijuana
23 legally in the city, which could diminish the
24 possibility for the opportunities.

1 The reason why is you can see a lot
2 of international people here. They don't like
3 marijuana. And I have some tenant smell -- smoke
4 marijuana. I can smell the marijuana all the
5 time. I told him, you know, that's okay. I
6 understand why you smoke marijuana. But you got
7 to understand, not everybody want to smell that
8 marijuana every time you go to the hospital,
9 every time you go to the train station.

10 This -- I just feel bad. I just
11 simply feel bad when I smell marijuana. So this
12 is -- I want to say is school system is one of
13 the most wonderful things in Aurora. And for the
14 school system -- you know, the city to allow
15 doing this, I mean, how could the parents with
16 their kids live in Naperville especially from the
17 international community.

18 That's all I want to say today.

19 THE COURT: Thank you.

20 Next in row six?

21 MR. GILWAY: Good evening. My name is Johnny
22 Gilway (phonetic). My address is 1110 Cedar
23 Street, Glendale Heights, Illinois. My
24 background is a -- I'm a medical professional. I

1 currently decided to go back to school because of
2 this new upcoming recreational cannabis and also
3 medical cannabis as well.

4 I'm going back to school to
5 hopefully get into some type of research program
6 to provide more research on the uses of marijuana
7 and its benefits. First and foremost, thank you
8 for your time and giving me an opportunity to
9 come up here and speak.

10 I would like to start off by saying
11 that I do support opting in. One of the benefits
12 of opting in is that this whole phase is for
13 social equity and the main component of that is
14 to provide economic opportunities not only for
15 those affected by petty cannabis offenses but
16 also for the City of Aurora, as well.

17 In doing so, how it essentially
18 helps social equity applicants or people that
19 have been convicted of at least petty drug crimes
20 is that it allows them an opportunity to
21 essentially learn and get trained from the tax
22 revenue that's brought in by them and as well as
23 gives them an opportunity, as well, to get
24 employment.

1 Also with that, studies show that
2 the average dispensary does currently bring in
3 right around \$500,000 worth of taxes.

4 And in the state of California,
5 2018, a news article published that because
6 majority of California, I believe it was
7 two-thirds of the state, decided to ban
8 recreational sales of cannabis, the illicit
9 market doubled what the states sales were in 2018
10 alone.

11 So essentially if you do decide to
12 opt out, it does open more opportunities for the
13 illicit market to thrive. The person at the
14 corner that's selling it now has no competition
15 besides somebody in a neighboring town. For
16 those people that don't like to travel, it's a
17 much easier way to access it.

18 And for health concerns, as well,
19 currently I am aware of a couple of studies that
20 are ongoing where cannabis is actually being used
21 to help wean people who are addicted to, I guess,
22 stronger opioids like heroin, fentanyl or
23 OxyContin to help wean them off as a rehab type
24 of treatment.

1 And also to add to that, I highly
2 recommend that we opt in and thank you for your
3 time.

4 CHAIRMAN PILMER: I think that is the end of,
5 I believe, row six.

6 So row seven -- or go ahead.

7 MS. SUN: So good evening, councilmen and
8 councilwomen. My name is Lang Sun. I live in
9 2520 (inaudible) Lane, Naperville, but since we
10 have several rented properties, so we learn more
11 of this Aurora.

12 And first, thank you so much for
13 giving us opportunity to voice our opinion out
14 and really appreciate all of you just coming here
15 and serve us. I especially respect the gentleman
16 right in front of me. I do trust your sincerity.

17 I trust everyone here try to do the
18 best for the Aurora people. So also I respect
19 the people who as a leader because in my
20 philosophy, I think true leader is out of love.
21 They want to serve people.

22 So that's also I respect the older
23 gentlemen, the councilman standing here and sort
24 of say his opinion here. I come from the

1 Naperville and I also had in Naperville the same
2 meeting.

3 And there are so many people, they
4 voice their opinion like the doctors, the
5 detectives and the retired policemen, the
6 educators, the parents. So from all of them I
7 heard the same voice, opt out. They're not just
8 speaking their own good, they're speaking their
9 kids and the one that they have.

10 He has so many students with
11 marijuana who has really bad impact on those
12 people who has come out. Also I really respect
13 the gentleman who was so brave enough using his
14 life experiences here to show what is right what
15 is wrong.

16 So I think here everyone has already
17 have some kind of knowing what is right what is
18 wrong. I also respect the gentlemen come here to
19 say the research. I agree. However, it is still
20 research. So why we risk -- take the risk now to
21 opt in to let some people seem like the rat of
22 the cancer.

23 So if it's still research, let's be
24 conservative. Let's be protect the people,

1 protect the kids. And it is research, it be
2 another 10 years or 20 years, then make the
3 decision.

4 And I want to use -- to end my talk,
5 I want to use one Bible scripture: I have the
6 right to do anything you see but not everything
7 is beneficial. I have the right to do anything
8 but not everything is constructive. No one
9 should seek their own good but good of others.

10 Do we really think to allow this
11 recreational marijuana is constructive by hearing
12 so many, also so many testimonies.

13 So I trust -- I put my trust in all
14 of you. I think out of love, you're going to
15 make the right decision. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Anyone else in
17 row six?

18 MS. BIRKETT: Dear City Council, my name is
19 Leanne Birkett (phonetic). I live in 485 Village
20 Green North in Naperville. I'm a real estate
21 investor, broker and a financial planner who has
22 lived, worked in the area for the last 10 years.
23 I keep an office at the Fox Valley Mall executive
24 office center, and (inaudible) allow the tiniest

1 real estate investor to the City of Aurora.

2 Today I'm here to urge you to opt
3 out. I meet Mayor Richard at the reception party
4 for the -- for the 70s and it was great of the
5 family of the People's Republic of China and
6 talked about recreational marijuana.

7 Here is in the US they have
8 tremendous freedom, but we must balance that
9 freedom with mental health, area to live and
10 work, and to keep our properties values high.

11 Yes, I do care about adverse revenue
12 just like everyone here, but not need revenue
13 from recreational marijuana. So the revenue from
14 the City invites in the policy should -- should
15 attract the people to live in Aurora and attract
16 the investor to Aurora.

17 I see need to invest in Pacifica
18 Square and America Street (phonetic).

19 I remember the many years ago I went
20 to Olympia (phonetic) Street to look at property.
21 A police officer stopped me. Surprised, I ask
22 the police officer what I did anything wrong? He
23 answered me, there was nothing wrong. He only
24 ask me where I was go. After I told him I'm

1 going to Olympia Street to see a property and he
2 told me, be careful. Why? Because of the drugs
3 and the shooting in that neighborhood.

4 Those things reduce the value of the
5 house in Aurora and the stop highly educated
6 people and the master from must live in there.

7 So recreation marijuana could do
8 that also. Recreational marijuana sales in
9 Aurora may bring some revenue but could increase
10 enforcement cost too, social stability.

11 Please opt out. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Sir, I think you were next.

13 Mr. GARRETT: Good evening. My name is John
14 Garrett Junior. I live at 200 South Emerald
15 Place in Aurora, Illinois and I've lived there my
16 whole life.

17 I just want to say that cannabis
18 will be purchased today on this block without
19 your consent and it's going to be purchased by
20 someone who is selling it from the black market.
21 People die trying to buy weed. People die trying
22 to sell cannabis everyday. So if people are
23 buying it, why not, you know, have a grip on it.

24 So the black market will suffer a

1 great loss from people who do not want to rely on
2 illegal transactions which is literally everyone.
3 Nobody wants to meet a drug dealer on a corner.
4 Nobody wants to buy it illegally.

5 The City can regulate it, authorize
6 it and allow the distribution and sale of it at a
7 higher level that will allow safety among
8 residents in the City of Aurora and ultimately
9 with people that are consuming it on, you know,
10 on a regular basis that are purchasing it from
11 places that are not safe.

12 I can assure you that the people who
13 are buying cannabis are going to continue buying
14 it whether you authorize the sale of it or not.

15 I request that you vote to opt in to
16 allow the safe sale of recreational cannabis.
17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

19 MS. BUCKLEY: Shannon Buckley, 345 South
20 Evans Lawn, Aurora.

21 I'm here before you today to voice
22 my support to opt in to the sale and taxation of
23 recreational marijuana. I believe the economic
24 opportunities in the commercial sale within the

1 City limits would be a great benefit to our City
2 that's been desperately trying to rebuild itself
3 over the last 20 or so years.

4 I'm a lifelong resident. I've lived
5 here 33 years. I'm, you know -- I've -- growing
6 up in Aurora, I've always known it's had a
7 reputation for being quote-unquote rough, to be
8 nicely. I'm going to NIU, I would tell people I
9 was from Aurora and I got a sense that people
10 felt bad for me. I never felt bad for myself. I
11 love my City. I feel a great sense of pride. I
12 love it because it's diverse.

13 My husband, when we were looking to
14 buy a house, he wanted to look somewhere like
15 Geneva, St. Charles. He grew up in Geneva and I
16 fought tooth and nail to stay in Aurora because
17 maybe it's the scrappiness in me, I don't know,
18 but I wanted to stay in the City. And I won.

19 So for as long as I can remember,
20 Aurora has always competed with all the
21 surrounding cities, Naperville, St. Charles,
22 Geneva, Batavia and everyone has looked down on
23 us and I want to see the City thrive. I have
24 seen the efforts of the City council, the efforts

1 of the recent mayor. I've seen the efforts they
2 put into the City and bringing in private
3 investors and, you know, getting grants and
4 putting that money into the City and building it
5 up and what it has become and there is so much
6 potential there.

7 And that sales revenue, which I
8 recommend 3 percent, would be so beneficial, not
9 just to building the infrastructure in downtown,
10 but to put into other communities within the
11 City. Put it into, you know, the communities
12 that have been hurt by the drug war. Put it into
13 those communities. Give it to the schools. I
14 mean, there is so many things you could do with
15 that revenue that could benefit the communities
16 that have been hurt by these policies.

17 So once again, I'm asking for you to
18 opt in to this proposal and to tax and sale the
19 recreational cannabis. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Next.

21 MR. HARRISON: My name is Ed Harrison. I
22 reside at 1014 Cyprus Drive in Aurora. I wasn't
23 planning on speaking tonight but sitting here, I
24 realize that I thought maybe I had walked in to a

1 screening of Reefer Madness which we used to see
2 back in the '50s and '60s and '40s.

3 Marijuana is here. I mean, it's
4 been here. It's always going to be here. It's
5 finally been legalized and yes, there is some --
6 probably some cons about it. But I truly believe
7 that the City would -- it would behoove the City
8 to make it legal here and to add a tax to it and
9 make that tax minimum -- or maximum, I'm sorry,
10 of 3 percent. Those tax revenues could do a lot
11 of good for the City and I think that's what you
12 should do. That's it.

13 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

14 Anyone else in row six? We'll begin
15 over on your left side on row seven.

16 MS. SUN: My name is Yan Sun, people call me
17 Sherry. I live in 255 Danhaven Court, Aurora. I
18 am a wife, a mom and my family have been living
19 here for almost 20 years.

20 People always say Chinese are really
21 good at math and I just -- make math very simple
22 because I didn't plan to talk about statistics.
23 One gentleman from Glendale Heights was working
24 the medical field mentioned that unlisted market

1 sales will go up if we don't get this passed.
2 But actually, the gentlemen earlier that say
3 using the example of Canada saying the opposite.

4 The facts says opposite because the
5 so-called legal stores, the price cannot compete
6 with the black market. The black market will go
7 up either way and also get a mass here, the
8 majority sales money go to the company but the
9 City of Aurora and taxpayer, we are paying the
10 cost. We are recovering the damage. Okay.

11 Today I want to share with you some
12 personal stories. I am -- been helping my
13 friends doing counseling and currently in the
14 past few months I have been counseling a couple
15 who the husband has job auditions and the husband
16 started with marijuana, now cocaine. And the
17 wife, I talked with the wife this afternoon
18 because I want to get her input what I should say
19 tonight. She say her husband -- in the
20 beginning, she tell me some education like
21 marijuana have two ingredient. You all know CBD
22 and THC. THC make you high. The ingredients of
23 THC is increasing right now and regular hook up
24 with marijuana, you looking for the next level of

1 excitement. That's why people get stuck with
2 some other harder, stronger drug like heroin,
3 like cocaine.

4 So studies say 90 percent of the
5 hard drugs like cocaine, heroin starts with
6 marijuana. That's exactly what happened in her
7 situation and I have her approval to share their
8 story tonight.

9 This addiction really put them for
10 this young couple into financial distress and
11 there have been snowballing financial bills and
12 debts, drug dealer calling them, as well. And
13 they are paying personal debt -- they don't have
14 mortgage -- student debt and they're borrowing
15 money.

16 And that's not the saddest part.
17 The saddest part is drug addiction make shattered
18 their marriage. And the husband, when he is at
19 work in the daytime when he is not smoking, he
20 told me, he call me, he call my husband, his
21 nerves are on fire. He cannot focus.

22 When he drive -- his wife told me,
23 Sherry, I don't want to get in his car. I say
24 why? Because I don't want to die. People who is

1 on drug temptation, she's not even doing drug, if
2 he behind the wheel, he may kill people. He may
3 kill himself.

4 And also, there is distrust, there's
5 disrespect, there's anger, their broken
6 relationship happening in this young family. And
7 when the husband longing for the job, he become
8 so easy to get irritated and anger and physical
9 abuse. It's not that far away.

10 Whenever we talk, I worry, I pray,
11 keep her safe, keep him safe, because when
12 they're both emotional, who knows what's going to
13 happen.

14 And they are willing to share their
15 struggle tonight because them and me and many
16 people here, many people out there, we don't want
17 this happen to any person, any family, any
18 friend, anyone in the street.

19 And my friend, they have a long
20 battle, they are fighting right now. They are
21 still in the darkest point in the tunnel because
22 treating drug takes money, time. It's hard to
23 coordinate going to rehab, rehab for him real
24 difficult place to go and he has a job to keep to

1 pay the bill. And we are committed, maybe we can
2 spend years for this couple to build them up, to
3 get them out of the desert.

4 So their story, she also told me,
5 Sherry, their story is not alone. Their story is
6 typical. And it takes a lot of social resolves
7 to heal, to rebuild a person, a family, whoever
8 involve in drug addiction.

9 Can somebody here tonight imagine
10 what if the drug just becomes so readily
11 available next door, next to school, what's one
12 more person to one more family, how many years of
13 our effort will be only for one person and not --
14 not alone saying the damage will be transformed
15 to the next generation, to the neighbors. But we
16 are not giving up for them. Even though there is
17 threat the voice is on the air, they may be
18 thinking, we are not giving up on this couple
19 because of our Christian faith.

20 That's why we are here tonight. We
21 are fulfilling a duty of our citizen of Aurora
22 and we hope you understand. And we all want opt
23 out.

24 Whenever I drive by the road here,

1 Aurora, there is a sign. City of what? Lights.
2 Light stands for what? Hope.

3 So let's be wise. Be responsible.
4 Never lose heart. Never loose hope in our family
5 of Aurora. Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Next in row
7 seven.

8 MR. HUANG: Good evening, ladies and
9 gentlemen. My name is Jim Huang. I live in 2839
10 Clarissa lane, Aurora. So I have been resident
11 of Aurora for more than seven years.

12 Marijuana is not something new. It
13 has been around for a long time and it has always
14 been illegal for people to plant and consume.
15 Why does it now become a focal point of our daily
16 conversation?

17 When people start using the
18 marijuana for recreational purpose, does that
19 mean over the years of a body already adjusted
20 and immune to the chemical introduced by the
21 drug? What does it mean we already have the
22 technology today to curve the harm it may cost?
23 The answer unknnows.

24 The main reason as we already heard

1 tonight is the tax dollar it may collect. I have
2 no opposition to its medical use. However, for
3 the recreational use, I'm not convinced. And I'm
4 sure you already heard so many information from
5 all the speakers how many damage it may cause.

6 The tax dollar you collect may give
7 the City a short-term financial relief, a few job
8 opportunities, but the cost to contain and fix
9 the damage it may cause is far greater than the
10 benefit it could bring both financial and
11 social-wise without mentioning the psychological
12 effect to people.

13 Marijuana-related traffic deaths,
14 crime, hospitalization, marijuana relating the
15 body in campers (phonetic), safety concern in
16 community, property value going down, all of
17 these will jeopardize the City reputation,
18 consume more taxpayers' money, damaging the
19 environment for business investment and lower the
20 standards of our value we believe in.

21 This is not just talking. It's
22 already happening in Colorado which is the first
23 state legalized recreational marijuana.

24 Therefore, for all these reason, I

1 will strongly urge you to opt out recreational
2 marijuana in our City of Aurora. It could only
3 benefit the weed industry but hurt our community.
4 Our people is not -- is not ready for this drug
5 currently physically and mentally.

6 And here we have all the signature
7 from the community we collected. It has more
8 than 100 signature we collected is going to vote
9 to opt out marijuana, recreational marijuana for
10 the City of Aurora.

11 So thank you four your attention.

12 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. I might state
13 for the record that several of you have brought
14 items up to be submitted to the record and
15 everything we receive tonight will be attached to
16 the record.

17 (Exhibits referenced.)

18 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Next in row seven.

19 MS. MAY: Hi, my name is Mimi May from 1879
20 Downing Creek Lane, Aurora.

21 About 20 years ago, my husband and I
22 were very excited about looking for a new home in
23 the US. And we were looking in Naperville. For
24 the longest time we couldn't find a house. So

1 finally the Realtor said to us, well, if you
2 don't mind an Aurora address, I'll take you to
3 Aurora. So I didn't know there was such a stigma
4 attached to living in Aurora, but we bought a
5 house in Aurora anyway and we do like our
6 community.

7 So I know Aurora currently has hired
8 a redevelopment company to rejuvenate our City.
9 We say we have so much potential and someone just
10 mentioned the mayor having ice cream in a new ice
11 cream store in downtown area.

12 So I also look at our neighbor,
13 Naperville, who hired -- which hired a
14 redevelopment company about -- a couple decades
15 ago and we have seen their prosperity in
16 Naperville. And they have prospered with --
17 without revenue from legalized drug dollars.

18 So we definitely want Aurora to
19 prosper. I am one of its citizens. But we -- we
20 want -- and we want God to bless Aurora. We have
21 to do what's right in God's eyes. It will not
22 come with the suffering and pain of people from
23 the ravages of marijuana. So the very real
24 long-term human costs have already been presented

1 to you.

2 I urge you to vote with good
3 conscious to opt out. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Next in row
5 seven.

6 MS. WU: Respectful mayor and commissioners,
7 thank you for giving me the opportunity. I'm May
8 Wu residing in 2666 Yorkshire Lane, Lisle. Why I
9 come all the way from Lisle to here is because
10 Aurora is special to me. My daughter used to
11 dance in the dancing school. Every year
12 Christmastime they perform at the Paramount.
13 Beautiful theater. I love it. It's such a great
14 memory. Now she's in college and still have this
15 beautiful sweet memory for that.

16 I like Aurora. It's a beautiful
17 place. Historical place.

18 Now today I want you to really --
19 you are all decision-makers. Make a decision
20 that responsible. Consider public health.
21 Consider community safety first as a priority.

22 As previous speaker already said,
23 the first thing I like to mention that is the
24 intensity of THC and the compounding effect of

1 THC and alcohol. THC is the main ingredient of
2 marijuana. And THC as we all know in 1960s, 2 to
3 4 percent is typical now it's up to 80,
4 90 percent on the market. That's 20 to 40-fold
5 increase. And the worst part is when THC is
6 taken with alcohol, it enhances alcohol
7 absorption, that means more alcohol can get into
8 your body faster.

9 The bring out in fact is obvious --
10 is already recorded in medical journal. So
11 what's the result? The result of this
12 combination of drug interaction is more traffic
13 accident, fatal accident and community health,
14 safety issue. As recorded in Colorado in past
15 six years, two-third of fatal traffic accident
16 related to marijuana were taken along with
17 alcohol altogether. So this is a very
18 significant fact.

19 Please know that alcohol impair your
20 motor skills and THC impair your brain function
21 and judgment. Put together, it's tragic.

22 And a key reality for the THC is the
23 testing matter. Unlike alcohol, there is a quick
24 method, breathalyzer method on the spot that you

1 can test the level of alcohol.

2 For THC, there is no on-site quick
3 method developed yet. I'm a scientist by
4 training. The methodology is -- right now is
5 extremely difficult, time-consuming, took few
6 days, body fluid, testing lab and it come back.

7 That would introduce tremendous
8 difficulty for law enforcement to enforce any
9 regulation policies on-site. Please think about
10 this.

11 Finally, I would like to mention
12 that CDC announces last week that there are 800
13 confirmed vaping cases cause lung disease and
14 lung damage. 12 death incurred.

15 Among these, the vaping two product,
16 E-cigarette and marijuana. And State of
17 Massachusetts also announce a four-month ban on
18 any vaping product, all of them. That include
19 marijuana. Why is it? Think about it.

20 Once the genie out of a bottle, you
21 can never take it back. Please, decision-makers,
22 Aurora's future safety, health is in your hands.

23 Please reconsider. Opt out. Thank
24 you.

1 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Next in row seven. Anybody
2 else in row seven? We'll go to row eight on this
3 side. Please come forward.

4 MR. LEAF: Fellow citizens, my name is
5 Raymond Leaf. I live at 2769 Yorkshire.

6 My wife and I retired here 10 years
7 ago. I've lived -- I came tonight because we
8 heard from our alderman, we received a postcard
9 from him. I came to learn. And it's the second
10 postcard we received from him. And as I was
11 listening to the talks tonight, one thing that
12 came up over and over again was about taxes and
13 supposedly gain of taxes. And it brought to mind
14 a previous postcard that we received from our
15 alderman about the moving of the gambling casino,
16 that they're going to move into our neighborhood
17 over here on farm -- Farnsworth Road.

18 The City has spent seven and a half
19 million dollars to buy the motels over there and
20 now they want to borrow \$100 million to move the
21 casino there. And as Judd said in his postcard,
22 casino has \$450 million of their own; instead
23 they want to use taxes of Aurora to pay for
24 moving the casinos.

1 I see a disconnect.

2 You know, talking about lives of
3 people and terrible devastation and we've
4 heard and it does take place when using
5 marijuana. And money is a big deal, taxes is a
6 big deal. It seems to me somehow that we've got
7 our values are mixed up here. Are we gonna be
8 raising money from marijuana to pay for the
9 moving of a casino? Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Next in row eight. Going
11 across row eight.

12 MS. LOPER: Hello, my name is Maria Loper,
13 Tomahawk Trail, Oswego. I would like to share a
14 story that happened to me a few years ago.

15 I was about 15 years old and I
16 decided to buy marijuana off the streets of one
17 of my friends in California where I'm from. We
18 smoked it. And it just so happened to be laced
19 with PCP.

20 Afterwards, we soon realized that it
21 was laced and our experience was very
22 traumatizing and scary for the both of us. She
23 forgot how to breathe at one point. I was
24 imagining things. And the fact that California

1 legalized recreational marijuana and has
2 dispensaries just around the corner made it so
3 much more easy for us to access safe usage of
4 marijuana.

5 I am currently 21 years old and
6 since I turned 21 and was able to buy marijuana
7 legally in California, I have not had any bad
8 experiences with it. In fact, it not only is not
9 laced with PCP, but it has helped me with my
10 mental disorders and disabilities, my physical
11 disabilities. I have PTSD, for example, and it
12 stops me from having flashbacks from the traumas
13 I've been through.

14 It's something that has helped me
15 through so many things in life that has even been
16 able to help me be able to socialize, be able to
17 help me feel more okay with myself because I'm
18 not so anxious all the time, I'm not scared. I'm
19 able to calm down, breathe for a second and if I
20 even just ingest the oil, the -- maybe even just
21 rub a little bit on my shoulder where I have
22 nerve damage and muscle tissue damage, I'm able
23 to move it so much better and function better as
24 a human being all on my own.

1 I can finally go out in public and
2 be normal instead of being in pain all the time
3 and having to restrict myself from playing
4 baseball with my friends, swimming like a
5 normality teen would like to swim or a normal kid
6 would like to swim with their friends. I'm a big
7 water person, I love the water.

8 And when I was in high school, I
9 loved to play water polo. And I had hurt my
10 shoulder back then and I had to stop playing it.
11 But now I can go back to playing water polo. I
12 can go back to swimming. I can go back to
13 baseball and continue to have a normal life just
14 like everybody else. I no longer have to feel so
15 much pain just walking around in my daily life.

16 I say opt in to the dispensaries
17 here. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Next?

19 MR. FROST: Hello. John Frost from 992 North
20 Ohio Street. I support Aurora opting in for
21 recreational marijuana sales.

22 We've heard kind of a lot of
23 misinformation here today but also some
24 information, misinformation, that actually

1 supports opting in for marijuana sales.

2 You know, there is simple things
3 like the attribution of marijuana -- driving --
4 or driving deaths and marijuana related causes in
5 Colorado. However, we know that those tests can
6 be run with -- with marijuana that's been in
7 people's systems for up to 30 days from that
8 time.

9 So those -- those figures are a
10 little twisted and I think it's important to
11 recognize that as -- as some other people have
12 brought up, we're almost in an island right now.
13 Naperville has voted to not allow marijuana
14 sales; Oswego is talking about it; Plainfield is
15 talking about not allowing it.

16 What that does is it causes people
17 to have to drive further if they want to get
18 marijuana. If you're worried about people
19 driving high, you know, they will be driving
20 further and people from Aurora will be going to
21 those places to get marijuana, you know, beyond
22 Oswego, Plainfield, Naperville, where they can
23 get it.

24 It's been brought up that there

1 won't be any money made from this. I'm not
2 necessarily in favor of full 3 percent tax. I
3 think the 2 percent is very reasonable and I
4 think it's important to point out that there is
5 over a billion dollars in revenue generated in
6 Colorado since its legalization there. That's
7 one billion, billion with a B.

8 Things have been brought up about
9 kids and marketing to kids. We know that we'll
10 not be able to market marijuana to kids. We know
11 that, you know, we've come up -- I like the
12 proposal from the City to not allow depictions of
13 people using marijuana or the plants or
14 paraphernalia on images outside of recreational
15 shops. I think kids should not use marijuana and
16 I think by legalizing it, you're actually
17 preventing kids from using it.

18 I grew up in St. Charles and there,
19 I -- when I was in high school I could not find a
20 single person to get alcohol. I wanted to have a
21 party one time, nobody could get any alcohol.
22 Alcohol was legal and it was sold to 21-year olds
23 in stores.

24 If I wanted to, I could contact

1 probably 50 people who could get marijuana. I
2 didn't want to but I could easily do that.

3 Because of that availability of
4 marijuana, the -- the gateway drug aspect of
5 marijuana is not due to marijuana, it's due to
6 contact with people who are doing illegal sales
7 of illicit substances who have low -- low morals
8 and low standards.

9 Those -- that contact with someone
10 who is willing to sell marijuana allows you that
11 contact for someone who is willing to sell
12 cocaine or heroin or any of those other things.

13 And volunteering at Habitat For
14 Humanity and other places, nearly one ubiquitous
15 fact existed between people that I asked, how did
16 you get into using opiates or other things.

17 There was a few cases of -- of
18 addiction based on pill usage, you know, doctors'
19 prescriptions and things getting out of control.
20 But nearly every other case was based on the fact
21 that because marijuana was illegal, they were in
22 contact with a person who could get them other
23 illegal substances. If we sell it in stores, you
24 know, it's regulated, we understand it, we can

1 control it, and they don't have that access.

2 In regards to potency, this is
3 actually a serious problem. The problem is that
4 marijuana is available. Marijuana is -- can be
5 bought on the black market easily and come
6 January 1st, it will be able to be purchased in
7 Illinois.

8 If you do not know the potency, you
9 do not know what you're getting. If you go to a
10 store, from what I've seen, there is labeling and
11 testing that shows the percentage of marijuana
12 that's contained in different products as well
13 as, you know, allowing you to understand if you
14 have a nonqualified medical need, you can
15 purchase marijuana that fits the specific
16 circumstance that you have like some people
17 mentioned skin cream and things like that that
18 can help them but also different types of
19 marijuana that can help them without getting them
20 high.

21 And my biggest point in wanting to
22 opt in to recreational marijuana sales goes back
23 to the fact that prohibition in large areas and
24 especially smaller areas surrounded by -- so in

1 an island of prohibition, what happens is it
2 feeds the black market. It allows people to --
3 to, you know -- it allows gangs to sell
4 marijuana. It allows interactions with people
5 who do other drugs, who do other illegal things.
6 It promotes violence between people in an
7 unregulated sale situation and it generally
8 festers illegal action in itself. The simple
9 existence is there.

10 So we will not be able to keep
11 marijuana away from our kids from them
12 understanding that it exists, that it is a thing.
13 We need to educate them. By selling marijuana
14 recreationally, we can fund schools to do that.
15 We can continue to do that education in schools
16 and we can know what they're being exposed to it,
17 when we need to tell them what it is, and explain
18 that it's dangerous to use it as they're young
19 and maybe even say that it's dangerous to use it
20 when they're adults. But to be able to control
21 that situation and control their exposure from a
22 perspective of putting it in the hands of
23 regulation and the City's ability to derive how
24 kids get exposed to marijuana and its ubiquitous

1 presence in society.

2 So please opt in to selling
3 marijuana recreationally in Aurora. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Anybody else in
5 row eight?

6 MS. SWANSON: Laura Swanson, 2366 Legacy
7 Drive. The Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act
8 set a distance for cultivation site to be
9 2500 feet. Having listened to your information
10 about 500 feet, I don't see why that is
11 necessary. Why not do what is recommended by
12 pushing the envelope in going further into -- as
13 close as we can get to a school or a daycare.

14 That's where I have a problem. I'm
15 not opposed to people choosing to smoke marijuana
16 whether it's for medical instances or for
17 recreation as long as they're adults.

18 Somebody used the example of a
19 15-year old. I hope that 15-year olds can't walk
20 into a store here. I don't know if one can walk
21 in in California at 15. I didn't realize that
22 the age was that young there.

23 And then I live near the Molitor
24 site which is the cultivation site. And back in

1 2015, they did not get the license and they've
2 been fighting with another site in Zion. It is
3 my understanding that they are currently growing
4 marijuana in there. And they do not have a
5 license to do that and this is according to an
6 article that just came out from the Tribune over
7 the weekend.

8 And the City of Aurora has been
9 funding for the past two years a lawsuit enjoined
10 with this site and Molitor. I can't remember the
11 name of the company that's running the site. So
12 our tax payer dollars, anybody in here were
13 enjoined in helping with those legal costs for
14 that site currently. So that I have an issue
15 with.

16 So I don't have confidence in the
17 City of Aurora to make good choices in where to
18 place these dispensaries or a cultivation site.
19 The current one is less than 2500 feet and making
20 your own assessments at 500 feet makes sense?
21 You can put it anywhere you want. We have a high
22 school down the street. We have residential
23 areas, we have apartments, we have homes. And to
24 learn that they're currently growing without a

1 license, it's still a felony.

2 Somebody mentioned the level of a
3 federal offense that it is and I do believe that
4 that's -- that's incorrect to be doing that.

5 So I want to bring that your
6 attention. I know you don't make the decisions
7 but who is making the decisions behind the scenes
8 without proper authorization to be growing
9 without a license?

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Anybody else in
12 row eight?

13 MS. ZHANG: Member of the City council,
14 I'm -- my name is Libing Zhang. I'm Aurora
15 resident for 20 years. I live in 3869 Cheryl
16 Court, Aurora.

17 I come here and stand here I just
18 want to express my point. To build a better
19 community, we need to say no to be the retail
20 sale of recreational cannabis in Aurora. To keep
21 our city strong health and safe, we should say no
22 to drug profit.

23 My personally, since moving to
24 Aurora, I really love this city. So that's why I

1 living there. I'm an original homeowner and I've
2 been there for 20 years. I love the environment,
3 the education, the good school district and I
4 love the shopping -- the Aurora outlet mall. So
5 that's a lot of good facility and service and the
6 very good community area and the service.

7 So I know and based through my last
8 20 years experience, I see City of Aurora make a
9 lot of efforts to try and strive to make Aurora a
10 better place to live.

11 So I see so many people move their
12 home to Aurora. And since I move in 1999 to this
13 year is exactly 20 years. If count on the number
14 of the residents, there is a 40 percent --
15 40 percent of population increase. So we know
16 that Aurora is a better place to live in. And
17 I'm happy about I living here and choose Aurora
18 as my hometown.

19 But at this point of time, I come
20 here, I want to say we want you say no to
21 marijuana because marijuana is not a -- just a
22 regular thing you can use and without any -- in
23 fact, actually using marijuana, there is a lot
24 of -- cause a lot of negative and long-term

1 effect and the problem.

2 Through the research and studying
3 Purdue and New Zealand and other research, they
4 already show the use of marijuana will lower
5 brain power. They affect the brain development,
6 the IQ can decline eight point the score. And
7 even though you stop using the marijuana, you
8 cannot go back.

9 So -- and also, it inspite
10 (phonetic) the memory. Using the marijuana
11 affect the memory, learn concentration and
12 attention, difficulty with critical thinking and
13 the problems of it. And also, the using
14 marijuana lead to worse education. And based on
15 the studying for the student who is using and
16 consume the marijuana has marked linked to more
17 not finish the high school, more high rate not
18 finish the high school and college.

19 So -- and also, using marijuana we
20 already -- many people already mention about
21 this, causing the driving dangerous. Experience
22 dangerous effect, the slow reaction, decrease
23 coordination and difficult reaction signal and
24 easy to cause the accident for that. And if a

1 person or -- with the pregnant and during the
2 pregnant using the marijuana, that's what affect
3 the baby development. They increase of the risk
4 of the baby's brain and the behaviors.

5 So think about this is actually --
6 is very, very dangerous to using marijuana. But
7 there is a survey, it's monitor in future survey.
8 The survey shows the more high -- high number of
9 the student, they thought about the last risk.
10 They don't think that taking or using marijuana
11 is a high risk. They don't think risk. The
12 thought is very normal because one of the reason
13 is legalization of the marijuana in so many
14 states. It's caused this.

15 And if the legal say this is legal
16 and we say no, this is so much wrong, but why do
17 this? And so actions affect is the many young
18 people, they don't think it's risk. But actually
19 is risk. So this is an action makes think it's
20 more urgent, more dangerous. Make our feel like
21 everything is normal. When we open the store
22 people is -- student and anyone is easily to
23 reach marijuana store. Is so easy because that
24 is my neighborhood, in my next street, right?

1 But at the same time, there is so
2 many horrible and dangerous, the risk we're
3 taking. I feel very touched the gentlemen just
4 talk about, he using his life experience, life
5 testimony, to say thousands of bad things about
6 marijuana. That his life experience. For us, we
7 cannot use it, but we still, we know, we see
8 them, something wrong or something, what is wrong
9 and what is right.

10 So we come to a situation is the
11 very risk of the marijuana and to make people
12 feel or especially student, they feel no risk.
13 Everything is good. If this isn't right, what do
14 we want a city to be known for? We want a city
15 to be a healthy strong and good education. Not
16 just say to make revenue and to pay the price,
17 take the risk.

18 And ones we want to change and the
19 things the community, the environment is
20 different. And that is too late.

21 So come here, I want to say no. No,
22 the retail sale of the recreational marijuana in
23 Aurora.

24 Please take opt out and thank you

1 for make decision, make the wise decision. Thank
2 you.

3 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Anybody else in
4 row eight there?

5 We'll move to row nine. Please come
6 forward.

7 MS. ZHU: Hi. My name is Fengga Zhu, 2302
8 Hudson, Aurora. I have three kids, three boy.
9 One elementary school, another high school and
10 another one is in college. I strong oppose
11 recreational marijuana for only one reason: Lead
12 our kids not into temptation.

13 For protect our children, I choose
14 opt out. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Next in row
16 nine? Anybody else? Row nine?

17 MR. HAN: Hi, everyone. My name is Kai Han.
18 I'm a homeowner of 1855 Tall Oaks Drive unit
19 3308. I think it make no sense financially to
20 have this business in our city. And someone will
21 make money but not the government, not the city.

22 Derive more revenue from this, that
23 means more people are consuming, are using
24 marijuana, and more opportunity that children are

1 involved.

2 If the marijuana dispensary is
3 legalized in our city, it will give our children
4 the wrong message. Marijuana is okay. It's not
5 such addicting drug. It is a privilege only for
6 adults. It would be so cool to try something
7 adult can only use.

8 Actually, according to a recent
9 survey data in Colorado, the percentage of -- the
10 percentage of the 12 to 17-year olds using
11 marijuana is higher in every legal marijuana
12 state. There is a national average.

13 We don't mind other cities to, we
14 just need to regulation, make regulation for the
15 kids for the future.

16 Once you weigh today, we still have
17 opportunity in the future to opt in if it is
18 really good, but today I think it's too rushed to
19 make the decision today because Illinois only
20 legalize it in June if I remember.

21 For other states, they legalize this
22 marijuana, recreational marijuana. Usually takes
23 about 16 months. But for us, it is only like
24 three months left. It is too rushed to make a

1 decision. We need to do more research. Let the
2 data show if it is worth it to have this business
3 to bring this business into our city. Thank you
4 for your attention.

5 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Anybody else in
6 row nine?

7 MR. GAO: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen.
8 My name is Zhaosheng Gao. I live at 4138
9 Bethlehem Road the City of Aurora.

10 Tonight I come here just want to
11 vote opt out because I search internet and a lot
12 of information show that marijuana is a drug that
13 does great damage both physically and mentally to
14 the home and body.

15 So I hear several people mention
16 that family. So although marijuana -- legalizing
17 recreational marijuana can bring some maybe
18 revenue, but the cost is too high to make a
19 profit or to benefit, really benefit our city,
20 our community because it cause trouble. It cause
21 more problem. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

23 MS. FANG: Good evening. My name is Xiuzhen
24 Fang. I'm Aurora citizen. I live at 2049

1 Foxtail Drive for seven years now. I have two
2 children. I'm writing to you to encourage you to
3 opt out regarding the retail recreational
4 marijuana sales in Aurora. Please protect
5 reputation of our city and the family that we
6 love.

7 Medical marijuana is available here
8 in Illinois. If you have a chronic pain that
9 need marijuana, go to doctor, go get from medical
10 THC dispensary. We are discounting recreational
11 marijuana, not medical marijuana.

12 There is distinct between the two so
13 please do not confuse. Public health,
14 concentration of THC, THC damage your brain. The
15 term marijuana plant or cannabis plant often
16 misuse of THC, the case I call active ingredient.

17 THC damage you brain, especially in
18 teens and the children who will be the next
19 source to our -- to move our economy to a higher
20 level.

21 The concentration level of marijuana
22 today has changed from that in 1960,
23 substantially. Back in 1960, 2 to 4 percent
24 marijuana were typical. To date, the level

1 increase three to four-fold to 8 to 12 percent
2 due to plant breeding technology, newer
3 extracting form from 40 to 90 percent active
4 ingredient. This is not marijuana old folks in
5 1960 knows anymore. It is highly concentrated.

6 Public safety. THC may not
7 immediately curing, but it can make long-term
8 damage and make alcohol more lethal because add
9 cycle activities effect. Colorado statistics
10 show that two third of people with marijuana was
11 used together with alcohol or other drugs. It is
12 known that THC can enhance absorpction of alcohol.
13 They made a compounding effect more dangerous.

14 Impact of adding one more drug to
15 America is not as addictive additive effect on
16 public health and safety. It is a multiplying
17 detrimental effect. Allowing recreational
18 marijuana use will cause more emergency room
19 visit, more traffic death due to multiple
20 substance misuse. As evidenced in Colorado, more
21 traffic accidents mean more innocent lives to be
22 taken away. Make our community and surrounding
23 nice and safe. Opt out, please.

24 Marijuana is federal law -- federal

1 illegal drug. Many companies do drug screening
2 during hiring process. If candidate fails drug
3 test, applicant is automatically rejected.

4 If employee caught performing duties
5 under drug influence, they are subject to
6 termination. Since marijuana stays in body for a
7 long time, if more people have easier access to
8 it, more people will have hard time to find a job
9 or keep their jobs.

10 October 7, 2016, at 9:00 P. M. a
11 precious nine years old girl Katie was on her way
12 back from her rehearsal. She was killed by
13 someone smoke marijuana and drunken driving.
14 She -- he ended up in prison for 13 years. But
15 the innocent little girl with her beautiful
16 little life just about to start and to explore
17 she loss her life.

18 As a mother of two children, I can
19 imagine the pain, the grief of Katie's family.
20 We have many parents aldermen, alderwomen here.
21 Can you imagine if this happen to you, your
22 family, your loved ones. Potential little
23 precious, precious kid could become a scientist
24 or engineering -- or engineer, a source of our

1 economy. You thought knowledge serve our society
2 but marijuana ended her life unfairly.

3 At such a young stage can you
4 imagine how many scientists or engineer will be
5 killed in the future if we have easy access to
6 marijuana. Marijuana indeed indirectly decrease
7 or damage our economics, our young generation,
8 our lives. Money can earn and can wait. Our
9 lives cannot. Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Anybody else
11 from row nine?

12 MS. PAN: Hi, my name is Dora Pan and I live
13 at 2330 Hudson Circle, Aurora. Folks have
14 brought enough information, data to demonstrate
15 the consequence of using marijuana.

16 It's destroying our life, destroying
17 our health and destroying our family and the
18 community. Here I just want to share a short
19 story. My best friend's daughter didn't finish
20 school and didn't find a job because of marijuana
21 using.

22 When she was in high school, her
23 friend in the same class brought her marijuana
24 and then they started using that and they became

1 addicted and loss of control and eventually
2 didn't finish high school. But the worse thing
3 is the families fell apart.

4 More -- a lot of tears, a lot of
5 disappointment and worries. So these girls
6 couldn't find the job they dreamed of. I just
7 don't want to hear more of such stories.

8 Here I'm urging the City council to
9 support the opt out. Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Anybody else in
11 row nine? We'll go to row ten.

12 MR. GOMMEL: My name is Bill Gommel, 2558 Oak
13 Trail Drive, fifth ward.

14 You know, we've heard a lot of
15 testimony tonight about the emergency room is
16 going to be impacted, the more marijuana impaired
17 driving, more costs on the police, the marijuana
18 is more potent today, the social costs of using
19 marijuana and the difficulty of finding drug-free
20 employees. Probably all of these are true.

21 The real culprit here is the state
22 who has made it legal to have marijuana. So
23 opting out will not stop marijuana from being
24 consumed legally by the residents of our city.

1 I grew up in a dry county where they
2 didn't sell alcohol because they didn't think it
3 was right for people to drink alcohol. Right
4 down the middle of the community ran the County
5 Line Road. All the churches were on the county
6 side that were dry; all the bars were on the
7 county line side that were not dry.

8 On Sundays, when church got out, you
9 could see the cars coming from the parking lots
10 of the church driving into the parking lots of
11 the bars. The people went to church, but they
12 still went to the bars.

13 Marijuana is going to be used by
14 residents of Aurora whether Aurora is in or out.
15 Our police are gonna have to deal with it,
16 whether Aurora is in or out. Our emergency rooms
17 are going to deal with it whether Aurora is in or
18 out. People are gonna use it because it's legal
19 just like people use alcohol. And unfortunately,
20 people abuse alcohol and we've heard some tragic
21 results of that. There will probably be that
22 with marijuana too whether or not Aurora is in or
23 out.

24 You need to opt in. To get some of

1 the costs offset. Sure, it may not be a windfall
2 for the city, but it's gonna be more than if it's
3 opted out. You need to opt in to get some
4 controls. If you're out, you have no controls.
5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Next in row
7 ten?

8 MR. ENGLE: Hello, my name is Anthony Engle.
9 I live at 847 West Galena. I'm a native. I was
10 born and raised here. 41 years old. Lived on
11 the east side, now I live on the west side.

12 I have seen Aurora growing up.
13 Looks beautiful now. When I was younger a little
14 more businesses. Some gone. The city is looking
15 pretty.

16 I believe you should pass it, get
17 more money in, more stuff will grow. The
18 naysayers, I -- I believe they need to do more
19 research.

20 You guys get the money, put it
21 towards the education, educate the older and the
22 young. Because obviously nobody is gonna be
23 research good enough. Everybody is still Reefer
24 Madness, drinking and driving. Everybody

1 knows -- close to my age, anybody in their 40s
2 they know, marijuana stays in your system
3 30 days. You can smoke it one time it's in there
4 the whole month. The next month it's not there.

5 So if they're drinking towards the
6 tail end of that month, it's gonna show up in the
7 system. So the drinking and driving and smoking
8 marijuana, the combo, you can't tell if they were
9 still smoking at the same time they did it.

10 So if you guys pass it, use the
11 money wisely. Keep building the city, make it
12 look beautiful. Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Next in row 10.

14 MR. AOPAKARKKLIS: Good evening. My name is
15 Jonathan Aopkarkklis. I reside at 407 Parker
16 Avenue in Aurora, Illinois. I have lived here
17 for 10 years.

18 I have been a long-time cannabis
19 user and advocate for most of my adult life. I
20 am a father and husband, a hard-working man who
21 holds a full-time job working six days a week.
22 Not your typical lazy stoner that movies and
23 video portray. I am excited that in the future
24 months, cannabis will be legal for all adults in

1 our great State of Illinois to legally purchase,
2 possess, and consume.

3 There are millions of cannabis users
4 around the world. We live in a world where
5 alcohol and cigarettes are sold almost anywhere
6 within a five-mile radius of our homes yet can
7 cause way more problems in our society. Alcohol
8 is also deeply integrated within our society and
9 accepted drug of choice for millions of people
10 many of which do not see it as a drug.

11 I can also tell you from experience,
12 cannabis is a safer substance to use
13 recreationally. I believe the true gateway drug
14 is alcohol. It's the one I was exposed to first,
15 taking a sip of my dad's beer at a family
16 barbecue many years ago.

17 Facts and studies are there. I
18 enjoy using cannabis and yes, I enjoy using
19 cannabis and drinking the occasional beer. It's
20 a person's choice what we put in their bodies.

21 Why should adults who use cannabis
22 be punished person and looked down upon in our
23 society. The days of fearmongering and Reefer
24 Madness are over. All based on false facts and

1 racial tendencies.

2 People tend to fear what they don't
3 know. Cannabis users need to come out and have
4 our voices heard. We shouldn't have to drive
5 four towns over just to purchase a substance that
6 can help many relax, destress and calm the mind.
7 Yes, cannabis can be abused. So can alcohol,
8 cigarettes and other things.

9 If Aurorians can't purchase cannabis
10 here, they will just travel to the next town and
11 get it there just to bring it back home to enjoy
12 missing out on tax revenues.

13 Many people can find relief for many
14 ailments with the responsible use of cannabis.

15 Allowing recreational marijuana
16 businesses to operate in Aurora would bring in
17 extra tax revenue helping our community. The sky
18 is not going to fall over it.

19 Please do the right thing, opt in
20 and allow recreational marijuana businesses to
21 open up shop here. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Next? Anybody
23 else in row ten?

24 MR. MARCICO: My name is Anthony Marcico.

1 I'm from Bartlett, Illinois. Chairman and member
2 of the plan commission, I want to thank you for
3 your patience and diligence during this evening.

4 Also like to point out everyone who
5 has spoken today that this is a hearing -- this
6 is not a hearing on whether to legalize adult use
7 cannabis; that has already happened. This is
8 recommending body about the zoning regulation to
9 oversee how adult use cannabis would be
10 regulated, controlled and overseen in Aurora.

11 There has been a lot of appeals, a
12 lot of personal opinions that have been displayed
13 today. And as a member of the cannabis
14 community, I'll rebut some of those. First
15 overwhelming one that we heard today is that
16 cannabis is a gateway drug. That is a myth and
17 that has been -- that's been proven over and over
18 again that cannabis is not a gateway drug.

19 The National Institute on Drug Abuse
20 has concluded the overwhelming majority of people
21 who use cannabis do not move on to harder
22 substances. And the US Attorney General Loretta
23 Lynch has stated that marijuana is not a gateway.
24 And to talk about gateway drugs is mostly in

1 correlation to the opioid crisis in Illinois.
2 I'm talking about heroin where most cases start
3 with prescription drug problem. Then because
4 they need more of that feeling of the
5 prescription drugs, they move on to heroin.

6 There has also been talk of
7 increased access leading to increased use.
8 Something that hasn't been talked about today is
9 the decrease in opioid prescriptions filled in
10 states that have adult use programs, significant
11 decreases. Illinois has 20 percent higher opioid
12 overdoses than the national average.

13 Another issue that has not been
14 talked about today is Forbes reported that there
15 has been a 15 percent decline in states with
16 cannabis legislation. So while there may be
17 increased use of cannabis, there is also decrease
18 in more illicit drugs.

19 Someone said today we should be
20 learning from other states and I heard Colorado
21 come up several times today and I think that may
22 be the worst analogy to use and we should learn
23 from that. Colorado has over a thousand cannabis
24 licenses. Illinois has done an amazing job and a

1 diligent job on passing legislation with strict
2 testing standards and oversight.

3 Illinois flower and cannabis
4 products are not allowed to have pesticides or
5 fungicides. They're all tested for those as well
6 as microbials. We're talking about the vaping
7 crisis, most of that has been tied to the
8 substance vitamin E acetate which there was also
9 a memo put out by IDFPR, that -- and Department
10 of Ag that cultivators cannot have these in their
11 vape products.

12 Many of the cultivators and
13 processors in Illinois have also put out public
14 statements saying that they do not use these
15 substances. That is a product of the black
16 market and that is something that Aurora has an
17 ability to combat. We have an opportunity to
18 control the outcome. Cannabis has been
19 legalized. Adult use has been legalized. And
20 the ladies and gentlemen here can control the
21 outcome.

22 I want to commend Aurora on making
23 more strict distance requirements than the state.
24 I heard something about not having a stricter

1 requirement, but for dispensing facilities, there
2 are no distance requirements that the state has
3 put in place. The City of Aurora is proposing
4 500-foot requirement. Also more strict hours for
5 operation for dispensing than state requirements.

6 I think some of the obvious benefits
7 of opting in, job creation and tax revenue.

8 Lastly I think something that has
9 been talked about a couple times but really needs
10 to be emphasized is the undeniable fact that
11 minorities have been disproportionately affected
12 by the war on drugs. This is something that has
13 been coming up very recently in the news and I
14 think Illinois has also done a great job of
15 making this relevant.

16 In the coming months, there is going
17 to be another rounds of applications for dis --
18 for social equity applicants. And I heard at the
19 beginning of this meeting that Aurora is thinking
20 about capping the number of licenses that are
21 proposed in the City of Aurora and I would stress
22 that it is very important and it's our
23 responsibility to reserve some of those for the
24 social equity applicants that are coming up in

1 the following year.

2 With respect to zoning, I think we
3 have that opportunity and stress that this body
4 here has the opportunity to control the outcome
5 of what happens in Aurora. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. Anybody else in
7 row ten or the back of the room? Is there anyone
8 else that hasn't spoken that would like to speak
9 before the commission.

10 Sir, were you sworn in earlier?

11 MR. LIANG: Yeah. My name is Zhigang Liang.
12 I live in 1015 Oakhill Drive, Aurora.

13 People talking about legalizing
14 marijuana and also talk about education. I think
15 currently our society also put much effort to
16 educate our people and, you know, still educate
17 to the marijuana so how can we do a better job
18 with the legalization of marijuana.

19 I'm thinking about the danger of the
20 marijuana to a body. I strongly suggest we, all
21 of us, the city opt out of the recreational
22 marijuana. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Anyone else that hasn't
24 spoken that would like to do so?

1 Seeing none, I'm going to close the
2 public hearing. And I would like to thank
3 everyone who took the time to provide relevant
4 testimony this evening and I want to ask staff to
5 come forward and there is a couple items I think
6 we had some questions and clarifications.

7 And I tried to write some of these
8 down here but maybe you can -- the 500-foot
9 distance, if you can clarify that?

10 MR. SIEBEN: The proposal in the text
11 amendment is 500-foot separation from schools to
12 any -- any licensee.

13 CHAIRMAN PILMER: I think the 2500 was a
14 cultivation center, wasn't it?

15 MR. SIEBEN: That had had to do with the
16 original medical requirements, the medical
17 marijuana requirements.

18 Deb, do you want to answer that?

19 MS. LANG: The 2500 feet was with the medical
20 marijuana legislation passed in 2013. That is
21 not in the new recreational marijuana amendments.
22 So the 500 feet is what we came to as an amount.

23 Currently in our liquor code, it is
24 100 feet from school zones in section 6-13D and

1 that's for 100 feet to a grade school, middle
2 school, alternative school or high school. So
3 this is a further distance than what's currently
4 in our liquor code.

5 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. And then I
6 think there was a discussion about potential
7 lawsuit that maybe just comment that anybody will
8 have to follow the licenses of the state of
9 Illinois.

10 MR. SIEBEN: Right. The existing medical
11 marijuana cultivation facility on Diehl Road does
12 have a state license, so I believe that was
13 granted several years ago.

14 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Age 21 or older to purchase
15 marijuana.

16 MR. SIEBEN: Yes. That's a state
17 requirement. No one under -- I don't believe
18 anyone under 21 can even be in the building.

19 CHAIRMAN PILMER: And then I don't know -- I
20 think the City council will address tax, how tax
21 revenue will be deployed.

22 MS. LANG: Currently, we just passed the
23 portion on what the tax would be so we can get it
24 into the Illinois Department of Revenue. So that

1 if we he do opt in, we would be able to collect
2 the sales tax because it takes about 90 days to
3 process that paperwork. So if January 1st is the
4 start date and the city decides to opt in, we
5 would be able to collect the taxes in a timely
6 manner.

7 We're still in discussion on how
8 that money will be disbursed.

9 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Any other questions of
10 staff?

11 MS. OWUSU-SAFO: I have a question. What is
12 the city proposing in terms of the number of
13 dispensaries that would be allowed to operate in
14 Aurora.

15 MR. SIEBEN: The second to the last gentlemen
16 said he thought he heard that there was a
17 proposed limitation on the number for dispensary.
18 We're not proposing that. I'm sure it will be --
19 the state will only issue a certain amount if a
20 special use is granted by the city, but we are
21 not proposing at this time.

22 MS. LANG: In addition to what I had
23 explained, the limitation is going to be on
24 arterial ways as he described earlier during the

1 hearing. That is the limitation and the 500 feet
2 from the school.

3 So that will limit the areas in the
4 city.

5 MS. OWUSU-SAFO: But there is no distance
6 from a residential area, right?

7 MR. SIEBEN: I'm sorry?

8 MS. OWUSU-SAFO: I know if it's an arterial
9 and it's 500 feet with I think with 1500-foot
10 separation between dispensaries; is there any
11 restrictions on proximity to residential.

12 MR. SIEBEN: No, there is nothing in the
13 state act and the city is not proposing that,
14 just the 500-foot to schools.

15 There is 1500-foot separation
16 between dispensaries. That's a state act. And
17 then we're limiting it to special use within only
18 certain zoning districts and then they have to
19 abut an arterial highway which is the highest
20 classification on a highway.

21 MR. HULL: I would like to comment. 500 feet
22 is absolutely too close to any school. Let's
23 just put it down right now. There is no way I
24 could support anything that's gonna be -- and you

1 won't find a liquor store within 100 feet of a
2 school, you certainly won't find one in district
3 204.

4 Now you may find something -- you
5 know, my house, my home, I live in West Marywood
6 area and I counted in my mind over ten liquor
7 stores within a half mile of my home.

8 And east Aurora school district 131,
9 we don't have a library branch, we don't have a
10 major food grocery store in our district. There
11 is all kinds of other ways -- we have mattress
12 stores, auto parts stores and restaurants, small
13 restaurants. And so 500 feet is absolutely -- I
14 will not support anything. 1500, minimum.

15 And so I didn't expect to have to
16 say anything and I know I may ramble somewhat
17 because I didn't plan on saying a lot about this.
18 But what I will say is all the talk about
19 revenue, okay, I'll just say this: The tollway
20 was gonna go to the schools; the casino, when the
21 casino first opened, we were reconstructing an
22 asphalt and 26 lane miles per year with the
23 casino revenue. All of those things have gone
24 down.

1 The State of California -- and I'm
2 saying all this because I am ambivalent about the
3 whole situation. The State of California has
4 also put out a report that since they have gone
5 with the legal marijuana dispensaries, that many
6 of them are going out of business because the
7 recreational users are still going to the black
8 market because it's cheaper; they're not
9 interested. The kids on the east side of Aurora
10 are not going to go to that dispensary because
11 they can't afford that. They can't afford it.

12 Am I excited that a 15 year old is
13 not gonna have that put on his record and ruin
14 his chance to get into college or to get a job?
15 Absolutely. But I'm not in the business of
16 watching the government get in the business of
17 distributing drugs, selling -- making it legal in
18 this town. You talk about what you love? I love
19 Aurora enough that I've been on the east side of
20 Aurora for the last 33 years and I -- I could
21 have lived any ward I wanted to live but I chose
22 to stay when people were flagging and running and
23 just trying to get out. And I stayed and I
24 fought.

1 And I don't don't want to see a
2 dispensary anywhere on the east side of Aurora.
3 Well, we'll put it like this: I'll speak for
4 district 131, and I haven't spoken to the people
5 at district 131 to ask them. I'm speaking as a
6 citizen and a tax payer of district 131. I don't
7 want to see a dispensary over there.

8 And when I brought up the fact that
9 the government is getting involved in this and
10 talking about the taxes and the revenues, no. My
11 community, so all of you that are not
12 African-American, thanks for the help but I'm
13 going to speak on behalf of that. My community
14 has -- has an economy built on their back locked
15 up in jail because of marijuana sales, nonviolent
16 crimes, and now the government wants to say let's
17 open up dispensaries. I don't think so.

18 And when I was at West Aurora in the
19 '70s, what did they do when they wanted quality
20 marijuana? They went to St. Charles. They went
21 to Geneva. They went to Oswego. They went to
22 Yorkville. Because that's where they had the
23 good stuff at, so to speak.

24 And so for -- for those of you, I

1 appreciate all the data, but you can make data
2 say anything you like to say. Whether it's about
3 revenue or whether it's about the effects of it.

4 I'll tell you what I can tell you
5 about the effects of marijuana, and I'm not
6 ashamed to say it. I haven't smoked marijuana in
7 three or four decades. But what I can tell you
8 is when I started -- this is the truth -- when I
9 started, one thing happened to me: When it came
10 to school, I didn't quite like it as much. I
11 didn't quite care as much. And I was a good
12 student. And I still, because God blessed me
13 with a certain amount of sense, was able to get
14 through it, get through school, got through
15 college, got through all of that. But at the
16 same time, I didn't see it the same way. It was
17 always, Just do enough, Ray, to get by and that
18 will be it.

19 But it -- I came to work everyday.
20 So all of you saying I'm not going to come to
21 work, I -- from the time that, you know, I'm
22 saying when I quit, I still came to work, I
23 worked, I started working at 16. I was smoking
24 and I was working, so don't tell me that

1 everybody that smokes will be lazy. That's not
2 necessarily true. Yes, there are slackers; yes,
3 there are burnouts. And so, you know, there is a
4 lot to this but I'm saying for me, for east
5 Aurora, I don't want to see a dispensary over
6 there.

7 How about giving us a library
8 branch? How about that? How about doing
9 something that's going to put something else.

10 If you have one out in 204, great.
11 On 59, if they're dispensing weed out there, I
12 didn't know anything about it. Great. If they
13 want that revenue out there -- and I'm not
14 speaking for all of east Aurora, I'm speaking for
15 Ray Hull and how I feel about anything of that
16 sort opening up in district 131 -- we have enough
17 issues and enough challenges and 500 feet will
18 get a no vote from me.

19 The City council needs to make that
20 adjustment. I know it's going to happen. It's
21 going to happen. But no matter how I vote or how
22 anybody else votes, there is gonna be some
23 dispensaries here but we really need to consider
24 that. 500 feet within a school? Really?

1 You know, the next question I would
2 ask is everybody that came up with that solution,
3 how many of you live in Aurora? Just asking
4 because I know city employees don't have to live
5 in Aurora.

6 Mr. Chairman?

7 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

8 MS. HEAD: Just so I understand, when you
9 bring up roads, are you talking like Galena --

10 MR. SIEBEN: Route 59 --

11 MS. HEAD: -- 31 --

12 MR. SIEBEN: Ogden, Galena, New York, Indian
13 Trail.

14 MS. HEAD: Eola.

15 MR. SIEBEN: Eola, yes, Lake, Broadway,
16 Orchard.

17 MS. HEAD: Got it. Thank you.

18 MS. OWUSU-SAFO: Can I second his on
19 basically the distance, proximity to schools? I
20 can -- I can literally throw a stone 500 feet and
21 to me that just does not cut it.

22 I will second his opinion on if this
23 is gonna happen, it needs to be further away from
24 schools, especially a lot of the high schools are

1 on arterial roads, so we don't want our kids
2 having that easy access to it. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Any other questions for
4 staff?

5 MR. ELSBREE: I have a quick comment. We
6 keep talking about kids. This -- this is 21 is
7 legal, correct? It will be an ID when they go to
8 the door, it will be -- have a security, I
9 believe, and I have dispensaries on the west side
10 of Aurora. They're called the parking lot and
11 the playgrounds after 7:00 P.M. I see it all the
12 time.

13 We literally have dispensaries,
14 unregulated, all over the city right now. The
15 fact that they would have to be 21 and prove it
16 to go in, I think is a huge step from what we
17 have.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I say something?

19 CHAIRMAN PILMER: I'm sorry, sir, the public
20 hearing is closed.

21 Any other questions from staff?

22 Hearing none, if the staff would
23 like to make a recommendation.

24 MR. SIEBEN: Sure.

1 Mr. Hull, I have lived in Aurora for
2 just over 30 years, so similar.

3 MR. HULL: Thank you, Ed. It was just a
4 question.

5 MR. SIEBEN: Both sides.

6 MR. HULL: It was just a question.

7 MR. SIEBEN: Right.

8 Mr. Chairman, staff would recommend
9 approval of the ordinance approving a tax
10 amendment to ordinance number 3100 being the
11 Aurora zoning ordinance to modify certain
12 portions being section 3.3 definition section,
13 4.3 special uses in structures, and table one use
14 categories.

15 CHAIRMAN PILMER: You heard the staff's
16 recommendation. Is there a motion?

17 MS. HEAD: Move for approval.

18 MR. CHAMBERS: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Motion made by Miss Head
20 and seconded by Mr. Chambers.

21 Please call roll.

22 MS. JACKSON: Mrs. Anderson.

23 MS. ANDERSON: Yes.

24 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Cameron.

1 MR. CAMERON: Yes.

2 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Chambers.

3 MR. CHAMBERS: Yes.

4 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Divine.

5 MR. DIVINE: Yes.

6 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Elsbree.

7 MR. ELSBREE: Yes.

8 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Gonzales.

9 MR. GONZALES: Yes.

10 MS. JACKSON: Mrs. Head.

11 MS. HEAD: Yes.

12 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Hull.

13 MR. HULL: No.

14 MS. JACKSON: Mrs. Owusu-Safo.

15 MS. OWUSU-SAFO: Yes, with the condition of
16 modifying the proximity to schools.

17 CHAIRMAN PILMER: That would be a no vote
18 because the motion didn't include that. So you
19 would either -- the motion is for as staff
20 recommended it.

21 MS. OWUSU-SAFO: No.

22 CHAIRMAN PILMER: That's just the motion
23 we're voting on.

24 MS. JACKSON: Mr. Reynolds.

1 MR. REYNOLDS: No.

2 CHAIRMAN PILMER: The motion carries.

3 Ed, could you just restate, again,
4 where this will next be heard?

5 MR. SIEBEN: As stated earlier, this will
6 next be heard at the BZE committee which is
7 building zoning and economic development
8 committee meeting one week from today October
9 9th, at 4:00 P. M., fifth floor of this building.

10 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you. That's it for
11 the agenda this evening.

12 Any other items?

13 MR. SIEBEN: Our next meeting is -- regular
14 meeting is October 16th at 7:00 P. M.

15 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you.

16 If we can get a motion to adjourn.

17 MS. HEAD: Move to adjourn.

18 MR. CHAMBERS: Second.

19 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Motion made by Miss Head
20 and seconded by Mr. Chambers.

21 All those in favor say aye.

22 (Ayes heard.)

23 CHAIRMAN PILMER: All those opposed?

24 (No response.)

1 CHAIRMAN PILMER: Thank you, everybody.

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
)
2 MS. JACKSON: .
COUNTY OF DU PAGE)
3 I, Barbara Johnston, CSR No.
4 84-002903, RMR, do hereby certify that the
5 foregoing deposition, Pages 1 through 151, was
6 recorded stenographically by me and
7 computer-transcribed under my personal
8 direction; and that the said hearing constitutes
9 a true record of the testimony given at the time
10 and place aforesaid.

11 I further certify that I am not
12 counsel for nor in any way related to any of the
13 parties, nor am I in any way, directly or
14 indirectly, interested in the outcome thereof.

15 This certification applies only to
16 those transcripts, original and copies, produced
17 under my direction and control; and I assume no
18 responsibility for the accuracy of any copies
19 which are not so produced.

20 IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto
21 set my hand this October 4, 2019.

22 *Barbara Johnston*
23 Barbara Johnston
Certified Shorthand Reporter

24

ATTENDANCE SHEET
CITY OF AURORA
PLANNING COMMISSION

Meeting Date: 10-2-19

COMMISSIONERS	ATTENDANCE		STAFF	ATTEDANCE	
	Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Chairman Pilmer	✓		Broadwell		
Mrs. Anderson	✓		Dick		
Mr. Cameron	✓		Minnella		
Mr. Chambers	✓		Morgan		
Mr. Divine	✓		Sieben	✓	
Mrs. Duncan		✓-EXCUSED	Vacek	✓	
Mr. Elsbree	✓				
Mr. Gonzales	✓				
Mrs. Head	✓				
Mr. Hull	✓				
Mrs. Owusu-Safo	✓				
Mr. Reynolds	✓				
Ms. Tidwell		✓-EXCUSED			
TOTAL					

SIGN IN SHEET

October 2, 2019

DATE

PLEASE SIGN IN - PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

PLEASE PRINT

PRINT YOUR NAME	PRINT YOUR FIRM/ADDRESS
Marjorie Logman	495 N Lake St Apt 504 Aurora 60506
KEVIN BASTIAN	891 LAUREL DR. AURORA
JAVIER GONZALEZ	720 King way ct. 60506
STEVE FROELICH	1508 LINDOLNSHIRE AVE AURORA 60506
Roger Vernon	2625 Ginger Woods Dr Aurora 60502
Eli Hodapp	941 Northfield Dr. Aurora, IL 60504
Greg Zhang	owner, 3170 E Winchester Ct, Aurora
ROBERT MACGREGOR	394 Vaughn Cir - Aur - 60502
Wei Huang	990 Meadowridge Dr. Aurora 60504
Hungting Chen	990 Meadowridge Dr. Aurora 60504
Jianjun Liu	754 Teasel Ln Aurora 60504
Danielle Barrette	3630 Fairfax Ct E " 60504
Kui Hu	11530 Century Circle, Plainfield, 60585
Jing Wang	2974 Savannah Dr., Aurora, IL, 60502
Picky Wang	2974 Savannah Dr. Aurora 60502
Jinfeng Wang	1104 Stonehaven Cir Aurora 60509
Wm Gommel	2558 Oak Trails Ct. Aurora, 60506
Yan Birkett	75 Executive Dr. Aurora 60506

SIGN IN SHEET

October 2, 2019

DATE

PLEASE SIGN IN - PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

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PRINT YOUR NAME	PRINT YOUR FIRM/ADDRESS
Mary Ann Vincent	1248 Oakleaf Ct., Aurora 60506
John Vincent	1248 Oakleaf Ct., Aurora 60506
WEIGUO LIAO	1104 Stonehaven Cir 60504
Juan Tovar	1230 Solfisborg Ave. 60505
YIPING PAN	3106 Ollerton Ave
XIUZHEN FANG	2049 Foxtail Dr
Dora Pan	2330 Hudson Cir.
LAIN XIAO	2520 DEWEES LN.
Jim Huang	2839 Clarissa
YAN SUAN	2550 Danhaven Ct.
Mary Wu	2666 Yorkshire Lane
ERIKA DECARLO	3134 Timber Hill Ln 60504
Emily McDonald	31 W Downers pl Aurora.
Zhigang Liang	1059 Oakhill Dr. Aurora 60502
Libby Zhane	3869 Cheryl Ct Aurora 60504
Laura Swanson	2366 Legacy Dr. 60502
Qing He	1031 Courland pl. Aurora IL
Kai Han	1855 Tall Oaks Dr. #3308



ILLINOIS DISPENSARY TRAINING MANUAL

Paris Thompkins
Victoria Williams

Recreational Marijuana

From: kevin bastian (kevin_bastian@att.net)

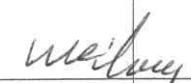
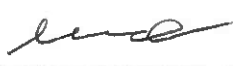




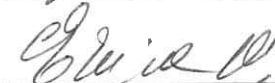
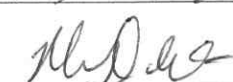
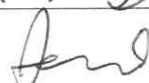
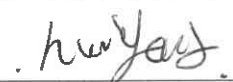
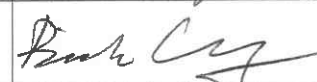

To: kevin_bastian@att.net

Date: Tuesday, October 1, 2019, 08:03 PM CDT

Ladies & gentleman I stand today to oppose the sale of recreational marijuana in the city of Aurora. The reasons I have are many, but first & foremost is the fact that recreational marijuana is harmful to a persons health. Now some may justify & say that alcohol and cigarettes are harmful but they're still legal. While there will always be individuals that will abuse alcohol & tobacco, tobacco is not a mind altering drug. And small amounts of alcohol, especially red wine has significant health benefits, recreational marijuana does not! And in fact, when people mix alcohol & marijuana, which will surely happen, the combination becomes deadly! When I was 20 yrs old, one night I had been out drinking beer and smoking pot. On the way home, driving up Rt.25, just north of Butterfield Rd. about a block & 1/2 from where I lived in No. Aurora, I passed out behind the wheel, & woke up just as I was going down an embankment of about a 45% angle as my car wedged against a tree and luckily the tree prevented my car from overturning. Thankfully The No. Aurora Police were in the area, had a tow truck pull my car out, & when they saw I lived nearby, escorted me home without ticketing or arresting me. But my story's beside the point! There is also a mountain of evidence that concludes that marijuana use leads to psychosis & mental illness as well as respiratory and lung damage to chronic users. God made our bodies the way he did for a reason. Fish die without water & human beings die without air. The only thing you should be breathing in your lungs is O₂. Anything else is harmful! I suggest this meeting tonight is just a token meeting held to pacify the public that we have some say in this matter, but from the information I have read so far, it seems to me the city has already made up its mind. The chief financial officers and other city revenue officials are already licking their chops, with \$\$ signs in their eyes, discussing at what percentage to levy the tax on revenue from the sale of marijuana. Now I suggest we're gonna hear all manner of justification for voting to pass this resolution. They will use all kinds of semantics such as, people are gonna use it anyway, or it's gonna cost us money anyway, so why not tax it's use. They will turn a blind eye all in pursuit of the almighty dollar. It's nothing but a big cash cow. But that doesn't make it right! And if you think about it, if the city passes this, they are actually encouraging people to use marijuana. Now they may say things like we're just making it available to people who will use it anyway. But if people don't patronize the facility, that means no revenue for the city! The whole point of opening a successful business is to do everything you can to make sure it succeeds. So the city has to promote the new business! A quote from the Beacon news said officials favor a 2% tax as a compromise between getting revenue & attracting High-end marijuana stores! No pun intended. One official said we're looking at being competitive! But, ladies & gentleman, if you were to ask our fine Mayor and the city council if they smoke marijuana, I don't think I need to tell you what their answer would be! But I wonder if some people like our ~~governor~~ governor, smoked too much of it when they were younger & it killed a lot of their brain cells & their ability to reason & think. I get emails all the time from the city of Aurora, of all the great things our city has to offer. Things such as empowering our youth. Well how does letting a recreational marijuana facility descend on the city of Aurora help empower our youth? What kind of message does that send to the youth of our city, even if they are 21, to have a temptation like that at their disposal? That maybe some kid who is facing some overwhelming problems in his life, when he feels the pressure's of life are getting him down, might just say some night, I think I'll go down to the corner store and buy some pot and get high to ease the pain! Ladies and gentlemen, I mentioned earlier, A successful business has to be promoted. This poses a little dilemma for the city. Like all businesses there certainly should be a ribbon cutting for the grand opening. Charlie's Silver Spoon Creamery opened right down the block on the corner of Stolp and Downer & I believe the Mayor and a few city officials had some ice cream with the new owners. So I have a question? Will the mayor and the city council have a joint with the owners of the new marijuana facility. If not, why not? It's the height of hypocrisy! The message at the ice cream parlor was c,mon down and enjoy what this new business has to offer, which in this case is some delicious ice cream! Well, why not the same at the marijuana facility? It's laughable! Maybe we'll start to see ads in the newspaper and on billboards throughout the city. C,mon down folks and patronize this business and experience what great quality weed they have to offer! A smooth taste, and a mellow high that you will love, with just the right amount of THC to relax your mind, fry your brain, forget your troubles, get your creative juices flowing & give you that euphoria you crave! But remember to smoke responsibly and don't smoke & drive! I ask responsible citizens to stand with me and urge the Mayor & the city council to oppose this in the city of Aurora. I'll end my little tirade with a quote that was coined back in the 70's. ONLY DOPES SMOKE DOPE!

OPT-OUT of Recreational Marijuana Stores in Aurora


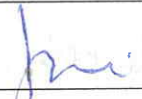
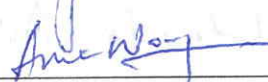
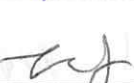
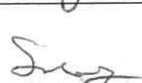
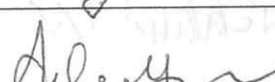

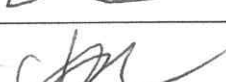


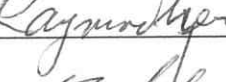

We the Undersigned want the City Council of Aurora vote Opt Out on allowing the retail sale of recreational marijuana in Aurora

Print Name	address	Zip code	Email address	signature	date	# sticker	Yard sign
Weilun Wang	810 Meadowridge	60504	Weilun.Wang@hotmail.com		10/1/19		
Michelle ^{zhou}	836 Fieldcrest Drive, Naperville	60540	lizzhou47@gmail.com		10/1/19		
Phani	808 Greenwood Circle, Naperville	60563	pmadala@gmail.com		10/1/19		
Paarth	2131 Allegre Cir, Naperville	60563	Paarthkchittwani@gmail.com		10/1/19		
Sheri	859 Lemsburg Lane	60504	sherimtoyola2013@gmail.com		10/1/19		
James Nielson	3395 Ravinia Cir.	60504	JORDAN.NIELSON@GMAIL		10/1/19		
Olivia Nwan	3429 Ravinia Cir	60504			10.1.19.		
Marta ^{Sanchez}	3378 Ravinia Cir Aurora IL 60504	60504	MESTRUCIASANCHEZ@hotmail.com		10.1.19		
JORDAN KABRANOV	3468 RAVINIA CIR AURORA	60504	IKABRANOV@ABK.BG		10-1-19		
Wu Yang	3462	60504	78326732@qq.com		10.1.19		
BONIEK CHEUNG	3478 RAVINIA CIR AURORA	60504	boniek@msn.com		10-1-19		
Dan ^{Valley}	3490 Ravinia Cir Aurora	60504	danodche@gmail.com		10-1-19		

Public Hearing: 10/2/2019, Aurora City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place.

OPT-OUT of Recreational Marijuana Stores in Aurora

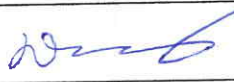
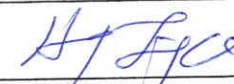
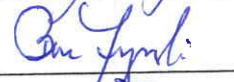


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Print Name	address	Zip code	Email address	signature	date	# sticker	Yard sign
Suki Chen	3139 Bennett Pl Aurora, IL	60502	Suki1_ng@hotmail.com		9/29/19		
Jessica Wong	2534 Brookstone Ct. Aurora IL	60502	mamawen23@gmail.com		9/29/19		
Anne Wong	4141 Blackstone Dr. Aurora, IL	60504	anneynwong@hotmail.com		9/29/19		
Ivy Wong	2398 Greystone Cir Aurora, IL 60505	60505	ivywong@icloud.com		9/29/19		
Sally Chung	2588 Greystone Cir Aurora, IL 60505	60505	sallychung@icloud.com		9/29/19		
Selwa Yen	2523 Millington Lane Aurora IL 60504	60504	sspingyen@gmail.com		9/29/19		
YAN SUN	2550 Danhaven Aurora, IL	60502	ssunchicago@yahoo.com		9/29/19		
Melissa Sun	1235 Celestia Lane Aurora, IL 60505		mely@comcast.net		9/29/19		
THOMAS LUC	1342 FRONT ST AURORA IL 60501	60501	tluc18@gmail.com		9/29/19		
Raymond Yen	2523 Millington Aurora	60504	rayen3232@gmail.com		9/29/19		
ROGER WU	1099 STOCKTON CT.	60502	weirogerwu@yahoo.com		9/29/19		
Guanhua Qian	1099 STOCKTON CT.		gguanhua01@yahoo.com		9/29/19		

Public Hearing: 10/2/2019, Aurora City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place.

OPT-OUT of Recreational Marijuana Stores in Aurora

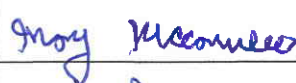






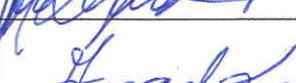
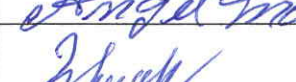
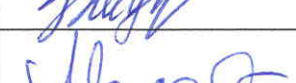
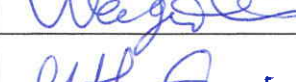
We the Undersigned want the City Council of Aurora vote Opt Out on allowing the retail sale of recreational marijuana in Aurora.

Print Name	Address	Zip Code	Email	Signature	Date
Wei Huang	990 Meadowridge Dr.	60504	anniewh20@gmail.com		9/29/19
Hungting Chen	"	"	hungtingchen@gmail.com		10/1/19
Bruce Tuszynski	973 Meadowridge Dr.	60504	tuszynski@tribpub.com		10/1/19
Tim Tasker	903 Meadowridge	60504			10/1/19
Alex Mirza	891 Meadowridge	60504			10/1/19

Public Hearing: 10/2/2019, Aurora City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place.

OPT-OUT of Recreational Marijuana Stores in Aurora

We the Undersigned want the City Council of Aurora vote Opt Out on allowing the retail sale of recreational marijuana in Aurora

Print Name	address	Zip code	Email address	signature	date	# sticker	Yard sign
MARY MCCANNVILLE	1050 N Farnsworth Ave. Aurora Unit 204	60505	/		9/30/19		
Marina Pundsock	1050 N Farnsworth Ave Unit 404	60505	/		9-30/19		
Fareed Inhomisi	1050 N Farnsworth Ave APT 416	60505	/		9/30/19		
Jorge Ramirez	1050 N Farnsworth Ave. Apt 412	60505	/		9/30/19		
ANN REVAS	1050 N Farnsworth Ave 314	60505	/		9/30		
SHARAH ALVAREZ	1050 N Farnsworth Ave 316	60505	/		9/30		
Miguel Vega	1050 N Farnsworth Ave. APT 209 Aurora IL	60505	/		9/30		
Angel Moreno	1050 N Farnsworth Ave 205	60505	/		9/30		
Yinyan Zhu	1050 N Farnsworth Ave. Apt. 406	60505	/		9/30		
WEIGUO LIAD	1104 Stonehaven Cir Aurora	60504	/		9/30		
Winnie Mei	1879 Diamond Creek Aurora	60503	/		10/2/19		

Public Hearing: 10/2/2019, Aurora City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place.

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Print Name	address	Zip code	Email address	signature	date	# sticker	Yard sign
Yan Yinkett	750 Executive Dr	60504	Chicago Yan @ gmail.com		10/1/19		
MALLEBRIKA	549 Fairway Dr	60563	mallebriken@gmail.com		10/1/19		
Sumanth Vera	857 Cassburg Ln	60504	aurakantie@yahoo.com		10/1/19		
JUMILFER Jasin	1809 1809 Cattail Circle	60504	jenjasin@gmail.com		10/1/19		
Aman	1001 fairway drive	60563	ramsay1223@gmail.com		10/1/19		
GANESH	2515 Adams way Dr	60562	g.nivas@gmail.com		10/1/19		
Xiaohong Jin	4612 Niswander ct	60564	xhlp4@gmail.com		10/01/19		
Shuaib Saker	1128 Ames Ct	60540	shuaibss@gmail.com		10/1/19		
B.SREENI	55655 VISTA CIRCLE NAPERVILLE, IL	60563	bsreeni23@gmail.com		10/1/19		
Karthik	55655 VISTA CIRCLE, APT 202, NAPERVILLE, IL	60563	karthi.it@gmail.com		10/1/19		
Di. Suresh	155 Holly St. Boilingbrook, IL	60490	di.suresh@gmail.com		10/1/19		
Pranav	960 water side ct	60502	nikunjaboip@yahoo.com		10/1/19		

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Print Name	address	Zip code	Email address	signature	date	# sticker	Yard sign
Rongping Guo	2492 Waterside Dr Aurora, IL 60502				10-1-19	2	
Bhargava Hukunta	2139 Allegre Cir Apt 108 Naperville IL 60563				10/1/19	1	
RAJESH RASIN	1813 Apt 315 NAPERVILLE				10/1/19		
ANUSANTH	2724 Parkman	60564			10/1/19		
VASU	2571 Bush Trail Ln	60563			10/1/19		
GRANKE	30W315 ARBuckle Naperville 60563		mariannegranke@msa.com		10/1/19		
OGGW	421 Riverside	60502			10/1/19		
Samudra Nigam	2271 DECLARATION LN. AURORA IL 60	60502			10/1/19	1	
DANIEL	3116 Aurora Ct Naperville, IL	60564			10/1/19	1	
SAM	3332 Hollis Cir	60564			10/1/19		
NALINI	825 STATION BLVD	60504			10/1/19		
Thomas Leib	3124 Savannah Dr	60562			10/1/19		

Public Hearing: 10/2/2019, Aurora City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place.

OPT-OUT of Recreational Marijuana Stores in Aurora



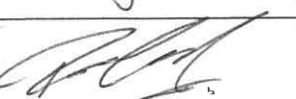
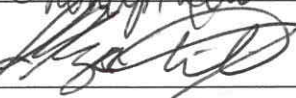
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Print Name	address	Zip code	Email address	signature	date	# sticker	Yard sign
XIN Shen	3226 Heatherglen	60504	houselife888@yahoo.com		9-28-2019		
JANE JIANG	364 Bunker Hill Aurora	60504	houselife888@yahoo.com		9-28-2019		
JUJING Xiao	754 Teasel LN	60504	judyingingxiao@hotmail.com		9-28-2019		
LP	335 Driftwood Ln	60504			9-28-2019		
Yumei Chen	562 Conservatory Ln Aurora, IL	60506	chihuo@yahoo.com		9-28-2019		
Yuxia Wu	399A Blackstone Dr	60504	lavendersky710@gmail.com		9/28/2019		
Ning Tuen	3138 Richland Ln	60504	c.y.8988@hotmail.com		9/28/2019		
Jim Huay	2839 Clarissa Ln	60502	huayj103@yahoo.com		9/28/19		
Libing Zhang	3869 Cheryl Ct	60504	libingzhang@gmail.com		9/28/2019		
JIM	1812 FERGUSON LN	60502	man7100@yahoo.com		9/30/19		
VIK	1789 PINNACLE DR	60502	VIK.PORRAGUE@gmail.com		9/30/19		

Public Hearing: 10/2/2019, Aurora City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place.

OPT-OUT of Recreational Marijuana Stores in Aurora


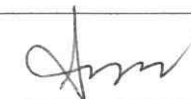

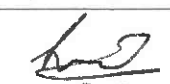




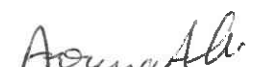
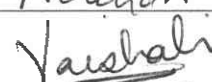


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Print Name	address	Zip code	Email address	signature	date	# sticker	Yard sign
Yiliang Wang	2974 Savannah Dr. Aurora	60502	yiliang.wang.98@yahoo.com		9/27/19	X	
Dee Busch	2968 Savannah Dr Aurora	60502		Dee Busch	9/28/19	X	
Tunika Jonak	2928 Arbor Ln Aurora	60502	tjonak@spcgldog.net	T Jonak	9/28/19	X	
STEVE BARTZ	2915 SAVANNAH DR	60502	STEVE_BARTZ@DRAVIZOOS.COM		9/28/19		✓
Melissa Rinaldi	2981 Savannah Dr.	60502	melissarinaldi@melissarinaldi.com	M Rinaldi	9/29/19	2	
Nicole Schindlbeck	3007 S Congress Dr	60502	nschindlbeck@yahoo.com	N Schindlbeck	9/29/19	X	
Luz Garcia	2911 Sawgrass Dr	60504	luzgarcia@aol.com	Luz Garcia	9/29/19		
Rodrigo Gonzalez	102	60505	Yahoo.com Gonzalezrodrigo@		9/30/19		
Shirley Anderson	1050 #415	60505	—	S. Anderson	9/30		
Cherilyn Davis	#411	60505		Cherilyn Davis	9/30		
Ilyia Williams	2999 Savannah Dr	60502			9/30		Ⓞ
DANIELA SAWBERRY	2895 CHURCH RD	60502	SAWBERRY.DANIELA@GMAIL.COM	DANIELA S	9/30/19		

Public Hearing: 10/2/2019, Aurora City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place.

OPT-OUT of Recreational Marijuana Stores in Aurora




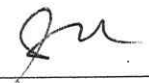

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Print Name	address	Zip code	Email address	signature	date	# sticker	Yard sign
Lu Li	562 Roxbury Drive	60565	lululi1204@gmail.com		10/1/19		
Anand B	1318 Pemrokeg Ln	60502			10/1/19		
Nader A.	3115 Coastal Dr.	60503	aderangji@iit.edu		10/1/19		
Amelia	2671 LEXINGTON LN	60540	amaliah1@gmail.com		10/1/2019		
Mohammad Syed	4158 MILFORD LN	60504	IRFAN.YSH@GMAIL.COM		10/01/2019		
SIRISHA GARAPATI		60564			10/01/2019		
Qing Chen	1481 Tara Bella Dr Naperville, IL 60564	60564			10/1/2019		
Ashok Bhuvan	2604 Highland Lane Aurora, IL -60502	60502			10/1		
	ARUNA ALLURI	60502			10/01		
Vaishali Nagare	889 Meadowridge Dr	60504			10/1		
Priya Talwar	3897 Baybrook Dr Aurora IL 60504	60504			10/1		
George	3944 Nicholas Ct Aurora IL	60504			10/1		

Public Hearing: 10/2/2019, Aurora City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place.



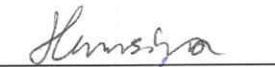



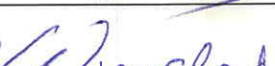



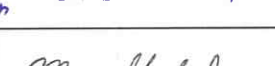
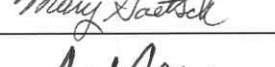
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Print Name	address	Zip code	Email address	signature	date	# sticker	Yard sign
GEE R	AURORA, IL	60504	GERSE@GMAIL.COM		10/11		
Rafay Usami	Aurora, IL	60504	rusami4@uiuc.edu		10/11		
NAGS MADHANI	NAPERVILLE, IL	60565	NAGS.MADHANI@CREDITSMALL.COM		10/11		
SANJEEV HASIJA	AURORA, IL	60604	SHASIZA@GMAIL.COM		10/11		
Naveer Madni	Aurora, IL	60504	naveer518@gmail.com		10/11		

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Print Name	address	Zip code	Email address	signature	date	# sticker	Yard sign
Yihui Huang	3690 Baybrook Dr	60584	yihuih@hotmail.com		9/28/19		
Jing Wang	2974 Savannah Dr.	60502	jerry_2001@sina.com		9/29/19		
Homyin Huang (Xiechao bei)	1125 Huntleigh Dr.	60540	z3449@icloud.com		9/29/19		
Hui	1826 mare Rd.	60490	hch402@gmail.com		9.30.19		
Qiang Li	403 saratoga Dr	60502	qwushu@hotmail.com		10/1/19		
Jianjun Liu	754 Teasel Ln	60504	Liuji6@hotmail.com		10/2/19		
Wenguo Cheng	2407 GeorgeTown Cir	60503	wenguo Cheng@yahoo.com		10/2/19		
Ji Wu	55450 scots DR	60563	wuji5656@gmail.com		10/2/19		
CHANG ZHAO	55450 scots DR	60563	wuji5656@gmail.com		10/2/19		
Qing Zhang	1754 Delta Dr	60503	qingzhang1128@gmail.com		10/2/19		
Mary Goetsch	808 5th Ave 60505		Goetmanga@gmail.com		10/2/2019		
Harry Ballouk	420 Bite me Lane Aurora IL	60503	bite.me@gmail.com		10/2/19		

Public Hearing: 10/2/2019, Aurora City Hall, 44 E. Downer Place.

Dear Mayor and Officers,

We have heard of a lot statistics, maybe I can share with you real stories. I am a wife, mom and also have been helping others as counselor.

Currently, I have been counseling and helping a couple with drug addiction(husband) in past months. The husband started with Marijuana, now cocaine. The wife told me: There are two main ingredients in Marijuana: CBD and THC. Marijuana contains more and more THC. When you keep using it, it opens the doorway to stronger street drugs, as you would seek higher level of excitement. Studies have shown that 90 percent of those currently using hard addictive drugs like heroin started with marijuana.

Drug addiction puts them in great financial distress. Many persons have drug addiction have debt or financial issues as the debts growing as snowball.

Drug addiction shatters their relationship and marriage. There are anger(which husband can't control), bitterness, hurt, distrust, tears.....once you start it, it may take years to recover part of the damage. There are broken hearts, broken relationships, broken families.

They are willing to share their struggles with you tonight as they, and me do no want this happen to any person or any family. They have a long battle ahead of them to fight, and they are in darkness of a tunnel.

Their story is not alone, actually very typical. It takes a lot resources to heal, to reestablish a person, a family who is involved with drug addiction. Can anyone here tonight imagine what if the drug becomes more readily available to one more person, one more family?

That is why we are all here tonight. We want to opt out.

Aurora, city of lights. Lights stand for hope. Let us do not lose heart, do not lose hope, be wise and be responsible as in our big family of Aurora.

Thank you very much.



Yan Sun

10/2/2019

Address: 2550 Danhaven Ct, Aurora, 60502



4 Vaughn Circle
Aurora, IL 60502

Chairman Emeritus
Caux Round Table: Global Business
Leadership Group, Promoting (Ethical)
Moral Capitalism for Free Enterprise

cell: 612.327.0661
office: 630.499.5538
robertmacg@msn.com

President Emeritus
Center for Ethical Business Cultures
University of St. Thomas
Business School

You have an important issue before you - Should you open Aurora to the sale of a very dangerous Drug - Marijuana? As a former four term member of the Minneapolis City Council and a Twin City leader, I know what you are going through - the pressures from all sides.

My concerns:

1. Today's Marijuana - 6 to 20 times stronger than used in our generation - It is a dangerous drug - well documented.
2. Gate-way Drug. It is well documented that Marijuana is a gateway drug to Heroin and Fentanyl. Those of us who have lost loved ones to drugs can provide strong evidence along with law enforcement and mental illness providers.
3. Mexican Drug Lords - They are among the strongest supporters of Marijuana legalization.

They make their money from U.S. citizens. (many from suburban American now) & they know legalization adds substantially to their bottom line. Americans are helping in major ways to corrupt and add violence to Mexico. Syria and Mexico are now the

4. ^{Two most violent in the world -} Drug abuse in the U.S. - increasing. Some 70,000 die each year, many suicides. It often starts with Marijuana use (well documented)

5. Teenage usage Survey last year by the National Institute of Health - Use among students, 8th, 10th, 12th grades rose last year 2.4%

6. Mental Illness - and a long list of related to brain damage to youths & mental & psychosis disorders. I recommend a book by Alex Berenson - a former N.Y. Times reporter and award winning writer. It is being featured in news reports across America today.

Tell your children It's an eye opening report, well researched, revealing the link between Marijuana use and mental illness and a hidden epidemic of violence linked to this different Marijuana.

The first four states to legalize Marijuana for recreational use were Colorado and Washington in 2014 and Alaska and Oregon in 2015.

Combined, those four states had about 450 murders and 30,000 assaults in 2013. Recently they had almost 620 murders and 38,000 aggravated assaults - an increase of 37% ~~68~~ murders and 25% for assaults - far greater than national increases, even after accounting for differences in pop. growth.

Other studies document that Marijuana usage is beavering the I.Q. levels by 8%. Students in class rooms are causing more disturbances

7. Traffic Accidents

Have gone up in each state that legalized this drug. Law enforcement officials keep raising the red flag. They do not have the tools yet to address this increase.

8. Taxes

- Cities all need more revenue. but - learning from other states the additional cost of legalization - traffic accidents, crime, hospital visits etc eat up most of the new revenue.

9. Campaign Contributions

As a former Alderman I understand the pressure to raise funds for campaigns. but I also stood up and avoided questionable contributions.

10. Leadership

5

- Now is the time to be a real leader and stand tall, and do what is right. (Note - I teach

Responsible Leadership to Business Classes around the world)

In closing - I thank you, if you took time to review my letter.

The Marquette industries is a Big Business all over the country -

In my judgement it is an irresponsible one.

Yes - this is the time for Strong Leadership to stand up for what is right for Aurora. I believe you are trying to do your best to be responsible on this and many other tough issues.

Thank you for listening to this "Old Guy"

Best wishes - J. J.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING

With large studies in peer-reviewed journals showing that marijuana increases the risk of psychosis and schizophrenia, the scientific literature around the drug is far more negative than it was 20 years ago. ... Yet the change in the scientific consensus has gone unnoticed. Americans in general are far more likely to believe the drug is safe, and even medically beneficial ...

Many older Americans remember marijuana as a relatively weak drug that they used casually in social settings like concerts. They're not wrong. In the 70s and 1980s, marijuana generally contained less than 5 percent THC. Today, the marijuana sold at legal dispensaries often contains 25 percent THC. Many people use extracts that are nearly pure THC. As a comparison, think of the difference between a beer and a martini. ...

States that allow recreational marijuana have found that legalization doesn't end the black market of unregulated cannabis. But it does lower prices, increase availability and acceptability, and drive up use.

Worse -- because marijuana can cause paranoia and psychosis, and those conditions are closely linked to violence -- it appears to lead to an increase in violent crime.

Before recreational legalization began in 2014, advocates promised that it would reduce violent crime. But the first four states to legalize -- Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, Washington -- have seen sharp increases in murders and aggravated assaults since 2014, according to reports from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Police reports and news articles show a clear link to cannabis in many cases.

Alex Berenson, The New York Times

Monday, August 26, 2019

147TH YEAR • NO. 316

Is 'Budtenders'?

As law takes effect, and how can police keep up?

Bongs beckon behind pristine glass cases. Dried marijuana flowers with names such as "Tangerine Dream" and "Banana Split" sit on pedestals where visitors can take a whiff.

Whether the suburbs will boast posh pot boutiques when Illinois legalizes recreational marijuana on Jan. 1, 2020, is unclear, but local police chiefs are certain

of at least two things: Crashes will increase and departments are sorely lacking a breath-test device to detect pot.

"There's definitely not enough resources," Des Plaines Police Chief William Kushner said. "We'll do the best we can for public safety and hope for the best."

See TRANSIT on PAGE 7

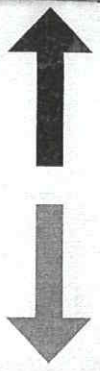
properties. After five years of legalization, the new law has not led to more young people smoking pot, but organized crime and seizures of out-of-state shipments have increased. In addition, hospitalizations with marijuana listed as a possible factor have increased dramatically, and more people are getting killed in car accidents while having metabolites of marijuana in their system, according to a 2018 report by the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice. Police citations for public consumption skyrocketed in the first year of legalization, but by 2017 fell to about half of that level.

Tests Show More American Workers Using Drugs

BY BEN WEBER
May 17 2017
On the Rise

EVERY STATE that has legalized both "medical" and recreational marijuana ranks **highest** in the nation for 12-17-yr-olds using the drug.

Subsequently, the states that have **NOT** legalized any form of high potency marijuana have the **lowest youth rates** in the nation.



higher among the broader American population compared with just workers and job applicants subject to testing. In 2015, 6.5% of Americans ages 26 and older admitted on a government survey that they had used marijuana or hashish in the prior month, according to the National Institutes of Health's most recent analysis of drug use. Among those 18 to 25 years old, the share climbs to 19.8%.
 Another concern for employers is the continuing rise in cocaine positives, particularly in drug tests conducted after

Dec 7 2018
Don't say marijuana is harmless

A stoned driver killed my daughter

BY CORINNE GASPER

When I hear people say marijuana is a harmless drug from the days of hippies

May 31 2018
Catal crashes increasingly tied to drugs, report says

MARY WISNIEWSKI | Chicago Tribune

A growing percentage of drivers who in road crashes test positive for drugs, it states need to do a better job of educating the general public and law enforcement on the risks of driving while marijuana, opioids and other substan-

Beacon-

570-1070 Stranges

\$1.50

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2015

'Opioids are a scourge on

Grieving father works for law to help save those overdosing on drugs



DENISE CROSBY

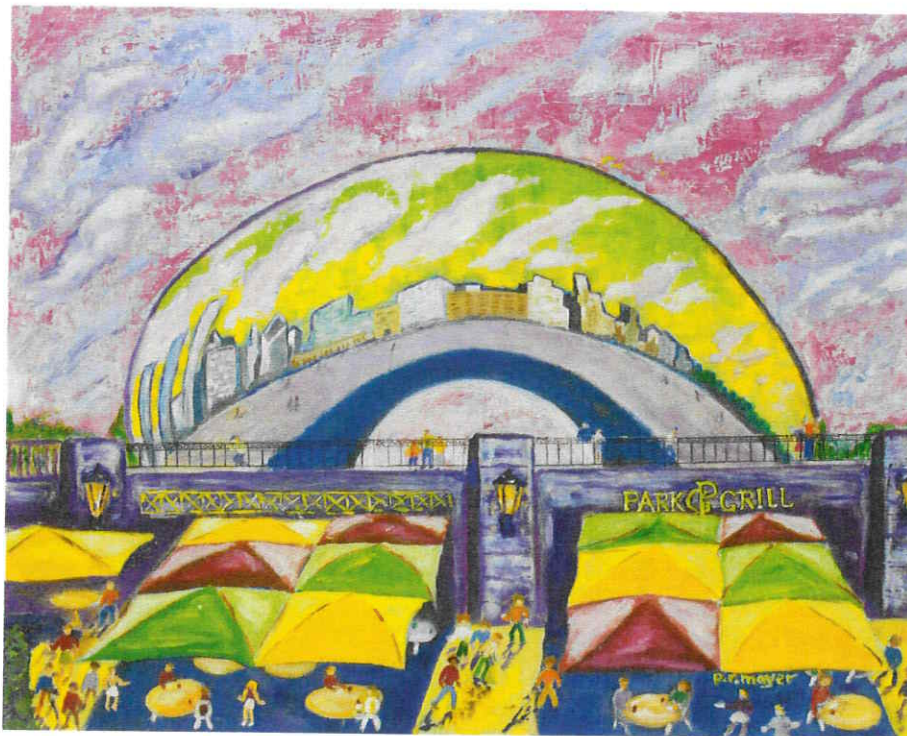
It was Christmas morning of last year — around 9 a.m. — when, as Bill Green describes it, "there arose such a clatter" at the front door of his Naperville home.

But it wasn't St. Nick making an appearance, he recalls, determined to bring some levity to a

subject that is stark and dark. Rather, it was a Naperville police officer informing him he needed to immediately call the Forest Park Police Department.

His 25-year-old son Alex, whom he and wife Dawn assumed was still asleep in the bedroom of their home, had been discovered overdosing on fentanyl and heroin at a gas station "near Harlem Avenue and the expressway," and was declared dead around 2:30 a.m. at Oak Park Hospital.

Now, eight months later, the shock of that horrible Christmas has begun to subside, but not the pain of losing the youngest of



October 2, 2019 RE: Consideration of legal cannabis/ Re-zoning

My vote is NO to legalize recreational marijuana in Aurora municipality.

The issue is safe driving. I retired last year and have thought about all the risks to me that could change my life in the negative. It has to be driving! With more marijuana freely used, I assume an increase number of impaired drivers, same as the problem of DUI which took years of groups such as Mothers Against Drunks to stiffen penalties. Without a roadside test for police to nail driving under the influence of cannabis, the question of penalties and deterrence is moot. The problem of safe traffic will only increase due to population, and nearly everyone over 16 now owns a car. The mix of impaired over-21's with inexperienced teen drivers is asking for more serious accidents and fatalities.

Does everyone remember the accident a few years ago near Mooseheart and Highway 31? the driver high on drugs rammed and demolished a home at the T intersection. Having marijuana being legal only loosens the boundaries of what is socially acceptable behavior. Even illegal, that was the sad illustration of what one impaired driver can do. I don't believe the tax revenue would be worth the social cost of the free invitation to use. Being "legal" gives the entirely different connotation to the custom and social sensibilities.

If Aurora Opts-In and re-zones, what ought to be considered is a name-address-ID number, date and destination address record requirement. With some deterrence to re-transport, use and drive, and share with friends might provide enough accountability to make it similar to what buying medical marijuana is now. Regulation is the next-best solution.

Finally, legal marijuana also brings with it more social nuisance problems for the public libraries, movie theatres, and even property owners leasing apartments. We all have to interact with people, but those mentioned have the burden of complying with all the non-discrimination laws we have. Legal free use seems to be just too difficult to deal with unintended consequences.

Sincerely, Mary Goetsch
808 5th Ave 60505

Mary Goetsch