

An Open Letter to the City of Redding-2018
For distribution to all Council members

Kristen Schreder-Mayor
City of Redding California
777 East Cypress Avenue
Redding, CA 96001

RE: Objection to Commercial Cultivation and Sales of Marijuana in Redding

Dear Madam Mayor,

As a voter I strongly object to the city's efforts supporting commercial marijuana. City staff, law enforcement, health providers, community stakeholders, and financial experts agree that commercial marijuana would be detrimental to our citizens and to our city. The city cannot realize sufficient monies to pay for the harmful effects of flooding our community with more drugs.

Current California laws regarding recreational marijuana makes it legal for a private citizen to grow 6 plants, equating to 5-30 pounds of pot per harvest. There is no need to have commercial marijuana to supply our citizens. One person can realize approximately 13,000 marijuana cigarettes per single high yield harvest, with the potential of multiple harvests per year. This equates to being high 24/7 365 days a year with product left over.

Evidence from states that have embraced commercial marijuana demonstrates the following;

- Upward trending of "Driving under the Influence/Driving under the influence of drugs" along with traffic injuries and fatalities. *(Source-CA HIDTA report 2015)*
- Burgeoning homeless issues related to drug and marijuana abuse. *(Kolb report -2017)*
- Failure to stem the flow of black market marijuana and cartels. *(James report-Atlantic Journal 2016)*
- Increased crime and safety issues related to marijuana, Redding has already experienced murders and multiple honey oil fires directly related to pot. *(RFD Fire prevention officers/RPD/SHASCO Sheriff-numerous reports)*
- Shasta County youths confirm marijuana is easier to get than alcohol. Commercial marijuana by its very nature is continually targeting youthful users, similar to what big tobacco and alcohol historically have done. This equates to less enabled students whose brains are permanently changed by marijuana use. *(Survey-Shasta High school students, CA/CO HIDTA reports 2015-2017, NIH/NIDA reports 2017)*
- Marijuana is the highest recorded positive drug test in our hospital admissions. *(Mercy Medical Center report 2018-on going)*
- Exponentially higher utility and water use. Multiple private homes could be powered by the utility use of one small commercial grow. One commercial grow can use enough water to fill up to 25 Olympic swimming pools. All of the residents of Redding will pay for this cost through higher demands upon our utilities. *(Mills-Journal of Energy Policy-2011)*

Marijuana remains a **federally illegal substance**. The city exposes itself to potential litigation from both the federal government and citizens alike.

I strongly condemn any action by the Redding City Council moving forward with commercial marijuana production and pot shops in our city. I respectfully request you halt any efforts to draft an ordinance supporting this permanently damaging industry to our community.

Signed

-a concerned voter- 2018