

Dear Redmond Planning Commissioners and Jason,

Thanks for holding the public hearing and listening to our voice! I am impressed by your effort and time spent on this topic. I also appreciate the philosophy of data-driven decision-making. I looked at the issue metrics and I noticed there are several open questions there, so I did some research and would like to share with you. Hope it helps.

1. Could legal marijuana stores reduce demand for illegal marijuana?

From [1], "data show that Colorado residents and visitors will consume an estimated 130.3 metric tons of marijuana in 2014, but only about 77 metric tons will come from legal medical or recreational outlets."

2. What are other cities experiences with licensed marijuana facilities, including for production and processing in addition to retailing? Specifically focus on crime, traffic, and impacts to neighboring businesses.

From [2], Page 1 -5 is the summary.

In 2014, when retail marijuana businesses began operating, there was a **32 percent increase** in marijuana-related **traffic deaths** in just one year from 2013.

A 2015 survey of school resource officers and school counselors revealed similar results about increased school marijuana issues since the legalization of recreational marijuana.

In 2014, when retail marijuana businesses began operating, there was a **38 percent increase** in the number of marijuana-related **hospitalizations** in only one year.

Children's Hospital Colorado reported **2** marijuana ingestions among children under 12 in 2009 compared to **16** in 2014.

Young children (ages 0 to 5) marijuana-related exposures in Colorado: During the years 2013 – 2014, the average number of children exposed was 31 per year. This is a **138 percent increase** from the medical marijuana commercialization years (2009 – 2012) average which was a **225 percent increase** from pre-commercialization years (2006 – 2008).

3. What do Redmond citizens want? Is a statistically valid measure available?

From the public hearing and the public comments, we can see most of Redmond residents are against having pot store in Redmond city. I manually counted emails one by one, here is what I found:

There are totally 78 emails (saw some duplicates from forwarding), 62 against, and 16 support. Within 16 supporters, **4 are owners or CEO of companies, 4 are frequent users of marijuana,** 1 has friends working at pot store, 1 not tried in 15 years, 1 from Sammamish 1 from Issaquah (Above data are purely from what they said inside their email). So isn't this clear?

We can also look at the survey result and also the petition <https://www.change.org/p/redmond-city-council-say-no-to-marijuana-stores-in-redmond-41681b1c-58bb-42bf-a441-db03d06f8f61>.

Can we put this on ballot for vote this November?

From [3], “not in my backyard” (NIMBY) responses to MMD sitings persist in places such as Washington, DC (Opfer, 2013), New Jersey (Farley, 2012), and Los Angeles (Kudler, 2014; Walker, 2013), all of which approved legalization ballot measures by high margins. A recent poll showed that 73% of adults support making medical marijuana legal, but 44% would be “somewhat or very concerned if a dispensary opened near their home” (Pew Research, 2010). Even as 80% of Californians support medical marijuana (Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research, 2012), only 55 towns and counties have developed MMD ordinances and 213 localities have banned medical marijuana altogether, many due to pressure from concerned residents (Americans for Safe Access, 2013).

4. What is the documented demand for marijuana and marijuana products among Redmond residents?

Based on the demographic character of Redmond city, [4][5], it should be clear that there are not much demand for marijuana among Redmond residents. You can see this lack of demand as well from the above paragraph and the data found from public comments.

5. What is the appropriate pace for increased opportunities for marijuana retail in Redmond in thinking about current conditions and future growth in the city?

From statistics and research results found below, it is obvious that the growth of marijuana retail comes with the cost of more people especially younger students become new users. Given the known impact on health of children, and added cost on hospital and urgent rooms caused by the usage, it seems not a good opportunities for the city to take.

[6]Marijuana use in the United States more than doubled between 2001 and 2013, ..., Marijuana-use disorders, which include problems with drug addiction and dependence, also rose, increasing from 1.5 percent of the adult population in 2001 to 2.9 percent in 2013, the study showed. The researchers speculated that changes in drug laws and a rise in more permissive attitudes toward marijuana are contributing to increased usage.

[6]a 2014 survey of more than 1,000 U.S. college students found that the percentage of students who smoked marijuana every day or nearly every day reached its highest level in more than 30 years. The researchers said they suspect the rise in marijuana use is linked with college students' perception of the drug as being less dangerous than other drugs, as well as the increasing number of states that have legalized the substance's use for medical or recreational purposes.

[7]Economists estimate that marijuana use will increase by 75% - 289% once legalized, or more if advertising is permitted. However, the higher end of this range is probably more accurate because current usage is underreported by 20%-40%. Inevitably, the increase in use will correspond to an uptick in incidents of dependence and abuse. If the number of new users is between 13.05 million and 47.85 million, then treatment admissions would likely increase from

1.3 million to 4.8 million respectively. These estimates assume a dependence rate of only 10%.

(Added myself) What are the potential impacts to city residential property values? City populations, and impacts on local business and economy?

From [3] "an important concern of developers and business organizations is the potential loss of revenue and trade from commercial businesses who do not want to locate in the immediate vicinity of an MMD (Steckler, 2006; Tilton, 2009). "

From [4], Housing unit in 2010 is 24,177, median value is \$453,900. The property tax from these properties is at 109.7 million. The opening of pot store could well drive down the property value by 5% easily, that is about 5.49 million every year. Note these numbers were for year 2010, and we know house market has seen significant growth since then.

From [2], page 1 -5 is the summary, there are other costs related such as hospitalization, urgent rooms, traffic, extra policing cost, etc.

In summary, I do not see it makes much sense even just considering money, not to mention the long term impact to children and culture and environment.

Thanks for reading and your consideration!

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[1]<http://inewsnetwork.org/2014/08/13/demand-for-marijuana-outpaces-legal-supply-black-market-filling-gap/>

[2]<http://www.rmhidta.org/html/2015%20FINAL%20LEGALIZATION%20OF%20MARIJUANA%20IN%20COLORADO%20THE%20IMPACT.pdf>

[3]http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/events/state_local_government/2014%20Fall%20Council%20Meeting/reefer-madness/NemethRoss.authcheckdam.pdf

[4]<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/53/5357535.html>

[5]<https://www.redmond.gov/common/pages/UserFile.aspx?fileId=18399>

[6]<http://www.livescience.com/53218-top-marijuana-scientific-findings-2015.html>

[7]<http://www.globaldrugpolicy.org/Issues/Vol%207%20Issue%204/The%20Economic%20Impacts%20of%20Marijuana%20Legalization%20final%20for%20journal.pdf>

[8]http://www.lassencounty.org/govt/dept/planning_business/planning_division/documents/20100511152643.pdf is white paper on marijuana dispensaries by California Police Chief's task force