

Jodi L. Daub

From: Eugene Flynn <cannaherb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 3:49 PM
To: Jason Rogers; Planning Commission
Subject: Retail Marijuana

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr. Rogers and Members of the Planning Commission:

I support fair and even-handed treatment for all business sectors in Washington State, and support making the required zoning changes to enable a retail marijuana store to open in Redmond.

Sincerely,

Gene Flynn
Managing Member
Canna Herb Farms LLC

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Jodi L. Daub

From: ewilson@spiretech.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 5:45 PM
To: Planning Commission
Cc: Jason Rogers
Subject: Redmond comprehensive plan & retail marijuana stores

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

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Commissioners-

I was just made aware of the City's "Marijuana Questionnaire", and have scanned through the responses. I never knew that the City was soliciting input on the topic of marijuana store locations. Overall, the negativity of the responses is astonishing. It smacks of an organized anti-marijuana campaign, which was also in evidence at a recent Planning Commission hearing on the proposed modifications to the Comp Plan.

Staying with the format of the questionnaire, I offer the following comments. First, I don't see the relevance of proximity of any retail store to a library or daycare facility. We have zoning and land use laws to govern the appropriate location of various businesses and other activities. Given that, I think a separation of 100 yards between supposedly sensitive uses should be sufficient. It's more of a visual separation that is at issue. Second, the question in the survey was 'where', not whether retail marijuana businesses should locate in Redmond. Again, the land use code already covers the general topic. These businesses should be allowed to locate anywhere that is zoned for commercial retail sales activities. There is also provision for reviewing proposed non-conforming uses, say on the edge of a commercial business or industrial zone, or wherever the code provides for the conditional use permit process to be used. As to the question of separation between marijuana businesses, I believe that is a topic best left to the competing business owners. I don't think that is something the City needs to regulate. If State law covers this topic, then that should be sufficient for the City, too.

In short, I think the Planning Commission needs to recommend to City Council whatever actions will best support the establishment of these legal marijuana retail stores. There are plenty of safeguards to ensure that their future activities stay within reasonable boundaries. Local governments often claim that they are favorable to the establishment and survival of small businesses. Here is a good opportunity to demonstrate that by creating the conditions in Redmond where these pioneer businesses can actually succeed and contribute to the community fabric.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments on this topic.

Sincerely,
Ernest F. (Ernie) Wilson

17509 NE 38th Court, Redmond, 98052
425-869-8899

Jodi L. Daub

From: xin sun <bshmily@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 6:04 PM
To: Planning Commission; Jason Rogers
Subject: My two cents on the public comments published on 2/10/2016

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear planning commission members and Jason,

I am going through the public comments published on 2/10 now and it makes me, a Redmond resident, very very furious!

The pot professionals are working hard to get their foot into Redmond. I understand the business and economical drive behind it, and they (who intend to open a pot shop in Redmond) are welcome to state their reasons and arguments . But look at all the people they recruited to email Jason and Planning Commission. NONE of them has a Redmond address! It's like hearing other people criticizing how you should discipline your kids! They don't even live in Redmond nor do business in Redmond. . IT'S NONE OF THEIR BUSINESS!!!

I hope when planning commission members hear different public comments, PLEASE consider where it is coming from. Redmond residents should have a bigger say on this issue since this is OUR home!

Thank your for hearing me out.

Sincerely,
Xin Sun

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Planning Commission
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 6:05 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: FW: Vote against Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code Amendments: Retail Marijuana

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: Tarek Ghonaim [<mailto:tarekgh@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:23 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Vote against Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code Amendments: Retail Marijuana

Hi there,

I missed the public hearing but wanted to voice my strong objection to the proposed amendment allowing marijuana stores outlined in the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code amendments relating to the Grass is Always Greener, LLC proposal.

As a Muslim, consuming or promoting items that intoxicate is forbidden. From a civic standpoint and as a father and a longtime resident of Redmond, the same basic thinking should apply: that marijuana stores should not be allowed in any area near schools, retail areas, mosques, churches, synagogues, parks, or locations where families might be.

I also don't want sign twirlers standing on the edge of our intersections promoting drug use, causing curiosity in my young children or my neighbor's children. Sign twirlers are an eyesore on their own, and I notice that when marijuana stores open they seem to employ them around the area to promote their business.

There are a lot of undesirable activities that follow the use and sale of marijuana, and despite marijuana recently being made legal, those activities still follow its appearance. To allow this type of business into our neighborhoods will diminish the beauty and safety of Redmond and make it less desirable to live in this community.

Thank you for considering my position and for counting my voice **against** this proposal.

Tarek

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Planning Commission
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 6:05 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: FW: Marijuana shops in Redmond

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: good85@hotmail.com [<mailto:good85@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:42 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Marijuana shops in Redmond

Dear city council,

Please do not allow Marijuana to be sold in Redmond under any condition.

We do not want our citizens to be brain dead, nor do we want to attract those who wish to engage in mind altering experimentation.

Please keep Redmond beautiful and keep zombies away.

Sincerely,

Abdul Memon

Sent from [Outlook Mobile](#)

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Planning Commission
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 6:06 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: FW: Zoning for the Grass is Always Greener.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: lspaulding51 [<mailto:lspaulding51@comcast.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 4:35 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Zoning for the Grass is Always Greener.

Thank you for reading my email and considering my opinion. I have lived in the Kirkland/Redmond area for 60 years, and been a voting citizen for 46 of those years. Needless to say, I have seen a multitude of changes over the years. Some I voted for and some I didn't. I did vote for recreational Marijuana sales in Washington State. The above noted shop is a retail store, they sell the end product in the process. The growers and the labs to ensure quality product do belong in industrial zones as they are not selling the product, just processing it. From what I know, The Grass is Greener proposed location does not even face the street it would be on. In other words, one would have to be specifically looking for it to find it. Doubtful young people would take effort to do this. From what I heard at the meeting on 1/27/2016, that the industrial folks do not want retail shops in their area. The folks that objected to this product being sold in Redmond should have been stating their opinions to the City Council, not the planning/zoning committee. I voted against privatization of alcohol sales, mine was apparently a minority opinion. But I did not hit every local municipality still fighting for my position on retail alcohol sales. The people against Marijuana sales don't seem to have a problem taking their children to local grocery stores where hard liquor is positioned next to the milk and eggs, or at Bartell or Rite-Aid, where it is positioned with the food items, just a few aisles over from the toys and games. My husband of 38 years is a recovering alcoholic. I believe alcohol is a much more dangerous, and easily obtained, drug than Marijuana. I have personally seen the consequences of alcohol addiction in families.

Also, with all the medical Marijuana dispensaries be shut down, those folks need to have the recreational retail shops close by, as those people cannot always go distances to get their products; some are cancer patients, intractable pain patients, MS patients, glaucoma patients. Some have to have someone take them as they do not drive. It would be easier to get their medical Marijuana when they are able to do other errands, such as grocery shopping in one trip.

I also feel that placing the retail shops in an industrial zone will be setting them up for failure, either through patrons not being able to readily find the shop or for break ins and theft of their product, as police surveillance of industrial areas is less than in retail zones.

Another point that was brought up was that parents just don't want the product sold around their children. As I do believe it takes a village to raise a child, however, I do not think it is the city's responsibility to teach children their own family values, that needs to be done in each child's home by their parents. The parents also mentioned that the shop owners are only in it for the money. In my 64 years I have never found any type of retail store that wasn't in business to make a profit.

Lastly, I have not heard any negative comments regarding the stores already open in Kirkland or in Bellevue. The state is heavily regulating these stores, and making sure they are following all the state regulations for sales. Personally I am less concerned about Marijuana than I am will alcohol sales and accessibility to youngsters.

Thank you again for reading my statement in favor of placing The Grass is Greener in a retail zone.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Planning Commission
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 6:21 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: FW: marijuana

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: dellberg@aol.com [<mailto:dellberg@aol.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 6:10 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: marijuana

I believe the commission should take these thoughts under consideration;

1. The shooting of Quintonio LeGrier in Chicago recently graphically illustrates the danger of marijuana use. The young man was reportedly using a prescribed medication (not named) but he continued to smoke marijuana. This may not be safe. It is quite probable that the studies claiming marijuana is safe have not explored the interaction of this drug with all other possible drug combinations, both legal and illegal. As such, studies concluding the drug is safe may only be partially correct or they may be seriously flawed. Clearly, the evidence in the case of this young man suggests at least a contributory role in the tragedy which ensued. He was shot dead by police after threatening his father and a police officer with a baseball bat. The neighbor lady was also shot dead by accident.
2. The genetic diversity of our population means that different people react differently to foods, alcohol and drugs. The variety of reactions may not be known in advance. Thus, it is impossible to say with certainty how a particular substance may affect a particular individual. We know that use of marijuana has been tragic in some cases, regardless of academic studies in a lab. An abundance of caution is warranted. The claim that legal retail sales will actually decrease the use of this drug in our community does not pass the "laugh" test.
3. In the event that we open a retail store in Redmond and the legally purchased drug is used by a young driver who then kills an innocent family, will the planning commission have the courage to say "maybe we made a mistake." Has the potential liability of the City been defined by legal counsel?
4. Is there any estimate of losses suffered by the business community in the event a substantial portion of the community shifts business to Woodinville so as to avoid contact with the new character of Redmond? Woodinville will not allow such stores. Perhaps downtown Redmond will lose millions in revenue from those who do not want to bring their kids to the "new" City. I have not heard of any estimates of this "avoidance" loss that Redmond may suffer. Maybe this issue has not been analyzed.
5. Has the issue of demotivation and possible effect on academic performance in our schools been thoroughly vetted by the planning commission?
6. As it remains illegal to sell marijuana under federal law, I do not believe the Mayor and council should send a confusing message that it is possible to be in violation with those federal laws that you do not believe in.

I remain convinced that the best action is to follow the lead of Woodinville and deny retail marijuana in the City of Redmond.

Dell Berg

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Dani Espinda <despinda@rhodescpa.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 7:29 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: Zoning Changes in Redmond

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To Whom It May Concern,

I support the zoning change to enable a retail marijuana store to open in Redmond. Allowing a marijuana retail store to open would offer additional jobs and mean more revenue for the city. Please consider this change.

Best regards,

Dani Espinda, CPA, CGMA

*Rhodes & Associates, PLLC
31620 23rd Ave. S. #218
Federal Way, WA 98003
253-528-0808
253-952-8883 Tacoma
253-214-2152 Fax*

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Sonia <soniagupta2000@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:25 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: NO for marijuana stores in Redmond

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi,

I am a Redmond resident and I vote NO for marijuana stores in Redmond. It will make Redmond unsafe and dirty. It will also paralyze young generation and make them less productive in terms of education and career. Marijuana will cause diseases in Redmond.

Redmond has been growing fast in every positive way and marijuana will destroy and bring Redmond down.

Thanks,
Sonia

Sent from iphone

Jodi L. Daub

From: Pankaj Nathani <pankaj.nathani@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:22 PM
To: Planning Commission; Council; Jason Rogers
Subject: Retail Marijuana

Hello,

I live in Woodbridge Community, Redmond (close to Redmond Hill and Evans Creek apartments) and have **fears** with the recent plans of opening up Marijuana retail stores close to our community.

I sincerely request to not open any Marijuana retail store around residential areas in Redmond. It won't be good for our kids and community as they are growing up.

Hope you will pay due attention to our concerns.

Thanks
Pankaj (Redmond resident)

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Miaohua Xu <vince_xu@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 1:46 AM
To: Planning Commission; Jason Rogers
Subject: Regarding study of amendments for marijuana Feb 10th

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear Sir/Madam,

I also strongly disagreed one statement mentioned in the study which is: since 60% people support marijuana legalization, most people support having marijuana store in Redmond, for several reasons:

1. That support of marijuana legalization was over 3 years ago. Time changes things. We really should look at public comments now instead of old data.
2. The support 4 years ago come with the regulation, for example 1000 feet buffer of the zone. Now if we reduce the buffer, lots of people won't support the legalization. I know people who voted yes 4 years ago strongly objects to opening stores in Redmond.
3. People voting yes on legalization are not necessary residents here. It's the residents paying all taxes that help the city up and running. Residents' voice matters.
4. Marijuana legalization is totally different things than opening store in town. The reason of supporting legalization might be better regulation and wish of less black-market. They don't want marijuana easily accessed by kids.

The study session tonight should take more serious concern regarding public comments such as people's comments in hearing, emails, survey, etc. Question 16 regarding the survey shouldn't be closed so quickly and easily. It was designed to take public opinion. Now data is there, it should be deeply researched. The last reason that people want to hear is because the result is not favored by some commissioner(s).

Redmond is a family oriented and kid friendly city, (partially) thanks to years of hard work from your team. We urge the team to take public comments more seriously. After all, it's all the residents here who form the city.

Regards,
Miaohua Xu
Education Hill, Redmond

Jodi L. Daub

From: Salma A Jibril <salmaj@uw.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:41 AM
To: Planning Commission; Jason Rogers
Subject: Vote to Keep Redmond Safe

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello Jason,

I strongly voice my firm objection to the proposed amendment regarding marijuana stores outlined in the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code amendments relating to the Grass is Always Greener, LLC proposal. Please count my vote against this amendment change because considering that even the 2016 candidates on the front lines spoke of New Hampshire drug epidemic, it is clear that drug prevention should be a top national priority.

I strongly oppose this amendment change because this is not the type of business we should be promoting in our neighborhood. I'm aware marijuana has been recently made legal in our beautiful state, however, there is a plethora of research that highlight it's harmful effects. I'm firmly opposed to making it's access near our families and easier for our children, especially since it's a known a gateway drug to more serious substances as we're witnessing New Hampshire's drug epidemic.

Thank you for considering my position and for counting my voice against this proposal.

Sincerely,
Salma Jibril

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Planning Commission
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 4:03 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: FW: NO marijuana stores in Redmond

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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-----Original Message-----

From: Sonia [<mailto:soniagupta2000@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:24 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: NO marijuana stores in Redmond

Hi,

I am a Redmond resident and I vote NO for marijuana stores in Redmond. It will make Redmond unsafe and dirty. It will also paralyze young generation and make them less productive in terms of education and career. Marijuana will cause diseases in Redmond.

Redmond has been growing fast in every positive way and marijuana will destroy and bring Redmond down.

Thanks,
Sonia

Sent from iphone

Jodi L. Daub

From: Planning Commission
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 4:04 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: FW: No Marijuana store

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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From: sonnaiakrasa@yahoo.com [<mailto:sonnaiakrasa@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:56 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: No Marijuana store

Hi,

I do not want to see a Marijuana store open near Wholefoods or the processing unit by future Costco. I would like to have no store open at all. But if you have to open one, please consider a location that is not on a main road, some where out of the way. The location of the current Redmond store is OK with me.

I live in the Woodbridge community, and do not want my two children exposed to what Marijuana store and processing unit will bring. I drive by both of the considered location daily.

Nadiya Bak
425-376-1980

--

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Planning Commission
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 4:06 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: FW: No retail Marijuana in Redmond

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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From: Kumar Rajeev [<mailto:kumarrajeev@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 11:14 AM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: No retail Marijuana in Redmond

Hi,

I'm a Redmond resident and am writing to voice my grave concern over the issue of retail sale of Marijuana in Redmond. I'm really worried about the future of kids in this area who will be able to get a hand on it more easily than ever before. We don't want to grow a generation affected by Marijuana. Current zoning leads to very closely located residential, industrial and commercial use areas. Opening retail stores in any area would make it easily accessible to nearby areas. So having 100 ft or 1000 ft or such so-called safe distance wouldn't be helpful at all.

Redmond is a small city and bringing in Marijuana just destroys the value and niceness of a small city. I am worried that value of land and real-estate will go down and in general attractiveness of Redmond city will go down. We don't want to let that happen to our city.

I hope city makes the right decision and prevents any Marijuana sale from occurring in Redmond city.

Thanks,
kumar

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Planning Commission
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 4:06 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: FW: Vote against allowing retail Marijuana

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: Ashar Khan [mailto:ashar_shoaib@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 12:54 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Vote against allowing retail Marijuana

Good afternoon,

I want to voice my strong objection to the proposed amendment allowing marijuana stores outlined in the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code amendments relating to the Grass is Always Greener, LLC proposal.

As a father and a longtime resident of Redmond, I feel that marijuana stores should not be allowed in any area near schools, retail areas, mosques, churches, synagogues, parks, or locations where families might be.

Despite marijuana recently being made legal, there are a lot of undesirable activities that follow the use and sale of marijuana. Furthermore, just because its legal doesn't mean its good for a community. To allow this type of business into our neighborhoods will diminish the beauty and safety of Redmond and make it less desirable to live in this community.

Thank you for considering my position and for counting my voice **against** this proposal.

Best Regards,
Ashar

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Kumar Rajeev <kumarrajeev@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 4:35 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: No retail Marijuana in Redmond

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi,

I'm a Redmond resident and am writing to voice my grave concern over the issue of retail sale of Marijuana in Redmond. I'm really worried about the future of kids in this area who will be able to get a hand on it more easily than ever before. We don't want to grow a generation affected by Marijuana. Current zoning leads to very closely located residential, industrial and commercial use areas. Opening retail stores in any area would make it easily accessible to nearby areas. So having 100 ft or 1000 ft or such so-called safe distance wouldn't be helpful at all.

Redmond is a small city and bringing in Marijuana just destroys the value and niceness of a small city. I am worried that value of land and real-estate will go down and in general attractiveness of Redmond city will go down. We don't want to let that happen to our city.

I hope city makes the right decision and prevents any Marijuana sale from occurring in Redmond city.

Thanks,
kumar

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Claire Fang <claireffang@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 5:20 PM
To: Planning Commission; Jason Rogers
Subject: Comments based on last night's study session

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear commissioners,

Thanks for spending the time last night discussing the issue of marijuana zoning regulation. I observed the whole session, and would like to provide a few comments regarding the discussion:

1. Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Nicoles mentioned several times that 62% of the voters supported legalization of marijuana when the vote took place in 2012. **I don't think it's appropriate to use that data point to represent people's will on the zoning regulation issue.** First of all, the vote was not for locating marijuana retail stores in the city they live in. If it had been spelled out, many people would've had to think twice. Secondly, as someone commented during the public hearing, many voters, including herself, voted Yes because they wanted to **reduce the cost we spend on criminalizing marijuana use, and not because they supported having marijuana retail shops in their neighborhood. Please don't confuse the two different issues here.**
2. There were a lot of criticism regarding the online questionnaire. Though I agree the data point is not statistically valid, **I don't think the planning commission can simply ignore or discount the 1238 unique responses that do not want marijuana stores in Redmond.** To provide another data point, the residents in Redmond are petitioning to the City Council to not have marijuana stores near areas that kids frequent. **The online petition (<http://tinyurl.com/weloveredmond>) has gathered 835 unique signatures (with verifiable names and addresses), of which more than 500 supporters live in zip code 98052.** Planning commission is a body that represents residents to advise the city council. It can't simply say that the number is not representative or not statically valid, and thus chooses to ignore or discount the concerns. If it's so important to have statistically-valid data on the public's opinion, then why don't we consider conducting a statistically valid survey or advisory vote?
3. There were a lot of debate last night regarding the validity of data points being used, and clearly there was no agreed standard on what's useful data. Commissioner Miller questioned the traffic generation data, and yet considers "no reported impact from the neighboring cities" being "statically valid". Retail marijuana in the neighboring cities is such a new phenomenon, and it would take years of methodical tracking and research to reach any conclusion. **We are all humans, capable making judgement and decisions without perfect quantifiable data.** What I want to bring to your attention is **the type of product being sold in these retail stores, particularly the edibles.** Below are some samples. I think we can all imagine **the risk of such products accidentally getting into the school and playgrounds and harming our children.** We as a society, parents and schools included, need to be better prepared for such risks and be able to help our children recognize and resist these harmful products. Right now, we are not there yet. Putting more retail stores is adding the risk.



4. In discussing issue #3 (why treating different parts of the MP zone differently), Commissioner Miller cited the business owner John Sacks multiple times, “that’s the question that Mr. Sacks is asking”, but in reality, in Mr. Sack’s written comments <http://www.redmond.gov/common/pages/UserFile.aspx?fileId=179183>, what he is really saying is that he doesn’t think the MP overlay is appropriate for retail marijuana, and he doesn’t think other zones are appropriate either. This is what he said in the comment - “The absolutely best solution would be for the City of Redmond to take the High Road and Continue to Ban Retail Marijuana Sales in the City”. Please use the information from public comments accurately.

In addition, there are a few topics I would like to hear the planning commission discuss more in the next study session:

1. A major theme from the 240+ emails from the public is the concern on potential negative impact on children. I **have not heard this concern being discussed in last night’s hearing, and would really like to hear it being discussed in the future study sessions.** Please do not use the argument again that “there is no statistically valid data”. In the most recent report from Colorado “Legalization of Marijuana – the Impact, Volume 3”, it says “drug-related suspensions/expulsions increased 40 percent from school years 2008/2009 to 2013/2014, and the vast majority were for marijuana violations”. It also says “a 2015 survey of school resource officers and school counselors revealed similar results about increased school marijuana issues since the legalization of recreational marijuana”. Granted, we don’t have data at such a rigorous level in the Washington state. That might be a good

reason to **delay the rush to add more marijuana stores and put a good impact-measurement plan in place first.**

2. Many supporters for marijuana stores believes having retail marijuana will reduce or eventually kill the black market. I would like to believe that's the case. **Do we have any quantifiable data that proves the reduction of black market over time once retail stores are opened in the city?** If we don't have such data to prove the benefit, **how can we be certain that the benefit of marijuana stores will outweigh the social cost?** A related question is mentioned in the issue #18 on the issue matrix.

3. Issue #17 (**Do we as a city believe there is a need to change zoning to increase the opportunities for retail marijuana stores to locate in Redmond? If so, why? If no, why not?**) deserves to be answered by the planning commission. Last night's discussion largely skipped this question. We would like to hear the city's "intent" first, and then the other discussions on the mechanics (such as in which zones, or how much should the buffer be) will become a lot easier to answer.

Thanks,

Claire

A Redmond resident for 8 years

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Brian First <bfirst@microsoft.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 12:43 PM
To: Jason Rogers; Planning Commission
Subject: RE: Vote against Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code Amendments: Retail Marijuana

Good afternoon Jason,

thanks for your reply. After reading some of the work your team has done as well as other comments by citizens, I wanted to reiterate a couple of points.

One is that even if the zoning laws maintain a 1000' zone of the marijuana shops from certain sensitive areas, the issue of sign twirlers negates that, because these businesses will likely put sign twirlers in exactly the locations of highest traffic—which is exactly where the families will be.

On a related note, while the law says marijuana is legal, as many people have commented it tends to bring along unsavory activities to the area. And by having the signs and businesses in the area, our children (and adults too) will get used to seeing the presence of drugs in the community, and then it becomes the new normal. I think our community and families deserve better than risking lowering the bar for the great environment that Redmond provides and where I love living.

Thanks again for your time and consideration of my opinions.

Brian First
Executive Producer | +1 (425) 703-5591 | bfirst@microsoft.com

From: Jason Rogers [<mailto:jrogers@redmond.gov>]
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2016 4:32 PM
To: Brian First <bfirst@microsoft.com>
Subject: RE: Vote against Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code Amendments: Retail Marijuana

Good afternoon:

Thank you for your thoughts on this issue. As you have seen, there is a lot of interest in this topic. Both the Planning Commission and City Council are aware of the many comments (on all sides of the issue) regarding marijuana.

I will ensure that your comments are shared with the Planning Commissioners. If you would like to provide additional written comments, please email them to planningcommission@redmond.gov or directly to me at jrogers@redmond.gov. Thank you.

Jason Rogers



Jason Rogers
Senior Planner | City of Redmond
☎: 425.556.2414 | ✉: jrogers@redmond.gov | Redmond.gov
MS: 4SPL | 15670 NE 85th St | Redmond, WA 98052



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From: Brian First [<mailto:bfirst@microsoft.com>]
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2016 1:38 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: Vote against Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code Amendments: Retail Marijuana

Hello Jason,

I missed the public hearing but wanted to voice my strong objection to the proposed amendment allowing marijuana stores outlined in the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code amendments relating to the Grass is Always Greener, LLC proposal.

As a Muslim, consuming or promoting items that intoxicate is forbidden. From a civic standpoint and as a father and a longtime resident of Redmond, the same basic thinking should apply: that marijuana stores should not be allowed in any area near schools, retail areas, mosques, churches, synagogues, parks, or locations where families might be.

I also don't want sign twirlers standing on the edge of our intersections promoting drug use, causing curiosity in my young children or my neighbor's children. Sign twirlers are an eyesore on their own, and I notice that when marijuana stores open they seem to employ them around the area to promote their business.

There are a lot of undesirable activities that follow the use and sale of marijuana, and despite marijuana recently being made legal, those activities still follow its appearance. To allow this type of business into our neighborhoods will diminish the beauty and safety of Redmond and make it less desirable to live in this community.

Thank you for considering my position and for counting my voice **against** this proposal.

Brian First

Executive Producer | Microsoft | +1 (425) 703-5591 | bfirst@microsoft.com



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Jodi L. Daub

From: Sachi B. <sachi_bv@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:06 PM
To: Jason Rogers; Planning Commission; Council
Subject: Re: Retail and processing marijuana sites

Hi Jason,

Thanks for getting back and trying to keep the buffer at or above 1000 feet. I would like to point out that 202/Redmond way at the Wholefoods intersection is very congested as it is. Traffic on this undivided road is typically in the 55 - 60 mph range. If one makes a wrong turn, because of the traffic, it typically takes 20 minutes or more to recover course at this intersection. Besides, a simple google search will show you that fatalities have been on the increase on this road. I can show you over a dozen emails from the Lake Washington School district indicating school bus delays because of traffic accidents on this road. As you can read in the public testimonies, residents dwelling in the neighborhoods of Woodbridge, Evans Creek, Redmond Hill, Vesta Apartments, English Cove, Dobbs Mill and Hidden Ridge are concerned about the increased traffic and increased law enforcement and DUI activities and property depreciation this store will cause.

May I point out that there are multiple stores in Bellevue and in Kirkland that Redmond residents have convenient access to in order to balance out the spirit of the state law? A store at this location will merely end up serving residents of Sammamish, Fall City, Issaquah and other nearby cities. We believe it is unfair that residents in this neighborhood bear all costs, while others enjoy the benefits.

I hope the city makes its decisions after giving serious thought and due consideration to inputs from communities in these neighborhoods.

Sachi Begur

Woodbridge Community resident and property owner in Redmond, WA

From: Jason Rogers <jrogers@redmond.gov>
To: "sachi_bv@yahoo.com" <sachi_bv@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2016 4:15 PM
Subject: RE: Retail and processing marijuana sites

Good afternoon:

Thank you for your thoughts on this issue. Access to and use of drugs, especially for youth, is a serious issue for this community and the greater Seattle area. The Redmond Technical Committee's recommendation would allow retail marijuana stores to locate in a portion of the Manufacturing Park zone near Willows Road, relatively isolated from schools, parks, and daycares, and other areas where youth frequent, and in a very small portion of the General Commercial zone on Redmond Way at the SR 520 offramp (it would not be allowed at the Whole Foods property). The Technical Committee recommendation does not include any change to existing buffers, which would remain

1,000 feet. Overall, the Technical Committee recognizes that there are potential drawbacks for retail marijuana sales and is striving to balance public safety concerns with allowing an activity that is legal under state law.

I will ensure that your comments are shared with the Planning Commissioners. If you would like to provide additional written comments, please email them to planningcommission@redmond.gov or directly to me at jrogers@redmond.gov. Thank you.

Jason Rogers
Senior Planner
City of Redmond
jrogers@redmond.gov
(425) 556-2414

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From: Planning Commission
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To: Jason Rogers
Subject: FW: Retail and processing marijuana sites

forwarding

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

From: Sachi Begur [mailto:]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2016 10:17 PM
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Dear planning commission members,

This is regarding your hearing on Jan 27th for siting of retail marijuana near whole foods and processing facilities on 188th ave near the Woodbridge community.

I would like to bring to your attention that these facilities are within walking distance of large family friendly communities with predominantly young children (Woodbridge community.). It is appalling that you are even considering these locations for such facilities. I can rest assure you this is not the demographics that voted for legalizing marijuana in Washington state. In case you are not aware, this area is home to some of the best elementary, middle and high schools in Redmond and some of the highest property taxes are levied on these neighborhoods.

Following is a list of the communities that are going to be affected - Woodbridge, Evans Creek, Redmond Hill, Vesta Apartments, English Cove, Dobbs Mill and Hidden Ridge.

Furthermore, this area is home to popular places such as Emerald city gym, temples, karate classes and many such classes children enjoy attending. There are also quite a few pre school facilities situated here. Also, the proposed facilities are in close proximity to one of two main entrances to the popular Marymoor park. This area is also connected with numerous trails providing easy access to young children.

We did not vote for legalizing marijuana nor do we want anything to do with drugs in our neighborhoods. I strongly urge the commission to seriously reconsider these frivolous proposals for

our anti-drug neighborhoods.

Keep drugs off of our communities.

Sincerely,

Sachi Begur

19301 NE 64th Way
Redmond, washington 98052

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Uma Gandem <umagandem@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 11:12 AM
To: Planning Commission; Council; Jason Rogers
Subject: Retail marijuana issue

Respected Sir,

I live in Redmond close to whole foods. We received email in our community alias about the retail Marijuana stores opening or getting approval to open in Redmond. This concerns me a lot as a parent of a teenager who goes to several different activities in this area. Residentially located area is not an advisable location to approve the concerned stores like, Liquor, marijuana etc.,

We talk to kids about several issues that they need to be careful of but as a parent I need to make sure they are in safe zone too. If I live in rental house, I can think of moving to a different safe neighborhood but I own a house .At the time of purchase, we did lot of research keeping in mind of safety, commute , schools and other safety factors in our location . Now, it gives me tough choice to make decision to move out of neighborhood because of the approval of major concerning stores.

I would sincerely request to please consider our concern as the kids are our future and to have a healthy, happy , responsible future generation, it is our responsibility to give them better environment. Please let me know if anything I can do as a responsible citizen to fight for good cause.

Appreciate your help in this regard!

Thanks&Regards,
Uma

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Gyan Trivedi <gyan_trivedi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 10:38 AM
To: Planning Commission; Council; Jason Rogers
Subject: City council public hearing meeting 2/10 - Retail Marijuana

Greetings!

I attended yesterday's City council's public hearing meeting. First of all, you guys are doing some real great work and as a 12 years resident of Redmond I cannot thank you enough.

Based on yesterday's attendance, there are a few things I wanted to bring up

1. There was a comment made by a council member that 60% people of Redmond voted YES on I-502. We need to take a look at the how many % of Redmond population actually voted and then see how this 60% translated to actual % w.r.t. Redmond's population. I am not defending people who didn't come forward and vote. But the way this whole Marijuana thing has been implemented is little tricky. Even after legalizing it in the state, no one knew how this will be distributed. So far a while, even the marijuana was legal but distrusting it was not, if you know where I am going with it.
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Thanks again for the great work you all are doing and best regards

Gyan Trivedi

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Prabhu Ganeshan <ganeshan.prabhu@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 4:32 AM
To: Planning Commission; Council; Jason Rogers
Subject: No to marijuana Issue - Redmond Way

Redmond Planning / Council team

Prabhu Ganeshan here. I live in Woodbridge community (188th and Redmond Way). I would like to take this opportunity to raise my concerns on opening a marijuana store in the Redmond way zone. As a parent and concerned neighbor, accessibility to marijuana would impact my kids and community as a whole.

Request: please consider my opinions and say NO to opening marijuana store in the Redmond way zone.

Appreciate your time and hoping for the best.

- A concerned Neighbor

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Thanks again for the great work you all are doing and best regards

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Request: please consider my opinions and say NO to opening marijuana store in the Redmond way zone.

Appreciate your time and hoping for the best.

- A concerned Neighbor

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Jodi L. Daub

From: sonnaiakrasa@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:06 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: No Marijuana store

Hi,

I do not want to see a Marijuana store open near Wholefoods or the processing unit by future Costco. I would like to have no store open at all. But if you have to open one, please consider a location that is not on a main road, some where out of the way. The location of the current Redmond store is OK with me.

I live in the Woodbridge community, and do not want my two children exposed to what Marijuana store and processing unit will bring. I drive by both of the considered location daily.

Nadiya Bak
425-376-1980

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Arul Prakash <arul.asir@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:35 PM
To: Planning Commission; Council; Jason Rogers
Subject: No to marijuana store in Redmond

Hello,

I am a Woodbridge resident for the last ~2 yrs and a Redmond resident for the past ~10 years.

I am shocked and disappointed that the city of Redmond is considering to allow marijuana stores in Redmond. Redmond is a family friendly city and there is no place for marijuana here. I understand there is a lot of money behind this, but please consider the impact on all the families and kids living in Redmond.

I believe most residents are very opposed to a marijuana store in Redmond as expressed during the public hearing on Jan 27th.

Please reconsider your decision.

Thanks,
Prakash

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Ishita <hi_ishita@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:47 PM
To: Planning Commission; Council; Jason Rogers
Subject: Retail marijuana store near whole foods Redmond

This is a sincere request and appeal to NOT allow any sort of retail outlet for commercial marijuana near whole foods Redmond. Lots of residential community and schools and families with kids in elementary and middle schools and high schools reside nearby. They will be vulnerable to this. Please help us keep a safe place for our kids else many of us will need to move our residence to a farther away location impacting the other commercial stores and activity in the vicinity.

Thanks
Ishita
(reside near whole food)

Jodi L. Daub

From: Planning Commission
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 6:06 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: FW: Name and address lspaulding51

Forwarding

From: lspaulding51 [mailto:lspaulding51@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 5:06 PM
To: Planning Commission
Subject: Name and address lspaulding51

I just sent an email regarding zoning for The Grass is Always Greener. I noted after sending I did not give my name, address or phone number.

Leanne R. Spaulding
12704 NE 14th Street #A-106
Kirkland, WA 98034

Phone - 425-273-6945

Emails address: lspaulding51@comcast.net

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

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Jodi L. Daub

From: KEITH DAVIS <keith1915@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:36 PM
To: Jason Rogers; Planning Commission
Subject: Redmond Retail Marijuana Store

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I support the zoning changes to enable a retail marijuana store to open in Redmond.

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Jodi L. Daub

From: Jerina Pillert <jerinap@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:59 AM
To: Jason Rogers; Planning Commission
Subject: In support of Marijuana Zoning Changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello!

I support the zoning changes to enable a retail marijuana store to open in Redmond.

Sincerely,
Jerina Pillert

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Jodi L. Daub

From: xin sun <bshmily@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:53 AM
To: Planning Commission; Jason Rogers; MayorCouncil
Subject: No marijuana in Redmond

Dear planning commission members and Jason,

I understand the city has to accommodate business needs in Redmond, but we as residents would like to see more data to make sure changes to the current zoning codes would NOT bring ANY negative effects to the community.

- Traffic data around pot shops in Bellevue, Kirkland and Seattle.
- Public safety data in above cities after recreational marijuana stores opened.
- Youth access to marijuana before and after recreational marijuana stores opened in above cities.

Legalization and decriminalization of marijuana (passing I-502) is very different from allowing pot stores to open in the neighborhood. A lot of us who oppose marijuana stores in Redmond now actually voted to help passing I-502 few years ago.

State laws changed the buffers in favor of more pot shops to open. It doesn't mean we have to follow the same path. Just like on Federal level marijuana is still an illicit drug, however, our State considers it legal. Redmond is such a vibrant city and the residents should make our own decision regarding retail pot shops in our community. We have to decide what's the best for Redmond!

I hope the planning commission make the right decision on this topic. So years later Redmond can say, "We did the right thing!" rather than "Well, we were not the only one got it wrong."

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Xin

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Jodi L. Daub

From: Claire Fang <claireffang@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:53 PM
To: Council; Planning Commission
Cc: Jason Rogers
Subject: Data on marijuana impact in Colorado

Dear council members and planning commissioners,

As we are all trying to understand the potential negative impact of having marijuana stores in our neighborhood, I would like to provide some data collected in Colorado that measures the impact of retail marijuana.

This report is provided by Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA). It utilizes, whenever possible, a comparison of three different eras in Colorado's legalization history:

- 2006 – 2008: Early medical marijuana era
- 2009 – Present: Medical marijuana commercialization and expansion era
- 2013 – Present: Recreational marijuana era

You can download the full report from

<http://www.rmhidta.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/687/MenuGroup/RMHIDTAHome.htm?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1> . Volume 3 is their 3rd annual report.

Below is what I pulled from the summary.

Driving accident

- Colorado marijuana-related traffic deaths increased 92 percent from 2010 – 2014. During the same time period all traffic deaths only increased 8 percent.
- Marijuana-related traffic deaths were approximately 20 percent of all traffic deaths in 2014 compared to half that (10 percent) just five years ago.
- In 2014, when retail marijuana businesses began operating, toxicology reports with positive marijuana results of active THC results for primarily driving under the influence have increased 45 percent in just one year.

Youth Marijuana Use

- In 2013, 11.16 percent of Colorado youth ages 12 to 17 years old were considered current marijuana users compared to 7.15 percent nationally. Colorado ranked 3rd in the nation and was 56 percent higher than the national average
- Drug-related suspensions/expulsions increased 40 percent from school years 2008/2009 to 2013/2014. The vast majority were for marijuana violations.
- A 2015 survey of school resource officers and school counselors revealed similar results about increased school marijuana issues since the legalization of recreational marijuana

Adult Use

- In 2013, 29 percent of college age students (ages 18 to 25 years old) were considered current marijuana users compared to 18.91 percent nationally. Colorado, ranked 2nd in the nation, was 54 percent higher than the national average.
- Positive THC urinalyses tests, for probationers age 18 to 25 and 26+ years old, increased 49 and 87 percent respectively since marijuana was legalized in 2013.

Emergency room and hospital admission

- In 2014, when retail marijuana businesses began operating, there was a 29 percent increase in the number of marijuana-related emergency room visits in only one year
- 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.
- In the three years after medical marijuana was commercialized, compared to the three years prior, there was a 46 percent increase in hospitalizations related to marijuana

Claire

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