



Cannabis Community Meeting

Comments from the Public

Twenty-seven (27) comment cards were received at the community meeting on February 15, 2018. Comments were copied exactly as written, except for minor adjustments made for spelling and illegible writing. Comments are listed in alphabetical order.

1. (1) Agree with 600' school buffer. (2) I do agree that cannabis sales should be taxed. The funds should be directed towards education or community services. (3) I support the tax of cannabis being on the same rate/level as alcohol tax in CA. (4) I support both retail and dispensary models in MV. (5) I have personally benefitted from cannabis use from a family member. He is an alcoholic and finds relief by using cannabis; I think it's a much better form of relief than alcohol.
2. (1) Fantastic job by Clarissa Burke. I really appreciated how much importance was placed on respecting the process and cutting off folks who talked out of turn. We are here to hear panel, not random audience feedback. (2) Really enjoyed the second activity to gather audience opinion in a straightforward way. (3) I appreciated how well informed the panel was.
3. (1) Given the amount of staff needed to support monitoring ID's, safety, and security - Does MV thing this is a good use of money? (2) Yes, essential to implement residential buffers of at least 0.5 miles - 1 mile. (3) Yes, a tax should be required on all sales.
4. (1) I am against having cannabis dispensaries in Mountain View. (2) Since so many neighboring cities are not allowing them, people will converge on Mountain View. There would be greater risk of accidents due to DUI and increased risk of accidental ingestion by underage users. (3) Perhaps the safest location for a dispensary would be on El Camino Real, near a bus stop, at least half a mile away from any schools.
5. (1) I am concerned about the potential negative effects of these potential businesses on residential areas and schools. Limiting to contain areas would not solve this and can make it worse. For example, many schools and neighborhoods are right behind El Camino and new apartments are being built on the street to encourage mixed-use development and solve housing issues. I am strongly opposed to limiting these to El Camino. It is unfair to people living nearby and can lower property value and unfairly burden these commentators with safety plus decrease retail use for other businesses we

would prefer and give the current increase in mixed use development I am concerned that it may not be reasonable possible to sufficiently separate residential and school use from these businesses. This is unfair to residents and homeowners who pay a lot of money to live here. For this reason I oppose allowing retail or non-retail cannabis sales at this time. (2) I am also concerned that these businesses will increase the amount of public use and exposure. Not all residents want to smell cannabis, which I've already noticed more. Also exposure to children like that which happened in San Francisco next week is more likely. This all seems unnecessary, as anyone who wants cannabis can travel to a neighboring community like San Jose. (3) Even limiting to industrial areas can be unfair to businesses there and these areas are increasingly being used to add housing.

6. (1) If retail/non-retail use is allowed I think it would be important to have robust police involvement to keep it safe and from becoming a nuisance. This would be more expensive than we can afford. If we had more of a budget there are other issues we could spend the money on such things as parking enforcement and homeowner solutions. San Jose is a bigger city with a larger budget and more areas (i.e. industrial). Even they probably have some trouble enforcing this. They also seem more willing to handle and tolerate big city issues like homeless encampment problems that we can't afford in Mountain View. (2) If allowed greater than 600' school buffers should be required and residential buffer zones should be included which cover condos and apartments as well as houses. (3) If there is strong support, can't we wait and see what other neighbors do. I think Palo Alto and Sunnyvale want to use us as test subjects. It seems unwise to allow this and unnecessarily experience. (3) Though people might want this, there are too many problems (i.e. how to prevent crime in cash only business) that can make Mountain View worse. The risks are too height and we frankly don't have the money to pay for an effective program.
7. (1) No additional taxes! (2) We should not limit the number of businesses. The market will be enough to regulate. (3) From this session, I hear many ill-informed and unfounded claims and fears. How will you make decisions based on fact and how will you work to share accurate information?
8. (1) There should be a buffer to residential locations. (2) A number of the precautions mentioned, including preventing children from smoking underage, these are speculations, not guaranteed, if this is passed. Could you require these regulations and air filtration if approved? (3) I vote against dispensaries and allowing cannabis recreational and medicinal use
9. (1) This is a great opportunity for our city. The sooner the better. (2) Then number of businesses should not be capped; competition is necessary here to prevent price fixing.

10. (1) What about the cost to the City? Cameras, licensing, surveillance, employee time, and money (our tax money?) shouldn't that time, money, effort be used to something more useful and productive? What about abuse by underage people? (2) What about educating and discourage the use of the drug?
11. (1) Yes, sales tax. (2) Police to ensure age checks are enforced. (3) Continue ordinance prohibiting use in public. (4) Education/outreach to schools about dangers similar to outreach about alcohol. (5) Total number of businesses limited to 2-3. (6) Not near neighborhoods, houses close together in downtown. (7) Concern about odor nuisance from backyards. (8) Concern about how edible can be monitored with children and discouraged. (9) Concern about overdose and addiction.
12. (1) Yes, there should be a tax on cannabis – best idea! (2) Prevention of child use should be similar to use of alcohol.
13. A residential buff will make dispersing locations evenly through the City very difficult. I would say please no residential buffer?
14. Cannabis should be regulated like alcohol in every way.
15. I believe that cannabis should be treated the same as alcohol in regard to storefront locations, number, subject, of course, to state law requirements. Buffer zones should be no less onerous than alcohol. Local tax should not exceed 5%. Locations should not be clustered.
16. I don't think Mountain View should have a hard limit on cannabis businesses the way San Jose does. Maybe on storefronts, but there are less people, less space, and higher prices on real estate here. There won't be much opportunity for many stores to open anyways. When dispensaries were limited in San Jose, quality of medicine went down and prices went up. Competition is needed and quality misrepresentation. We don't limit liquor stores this way, and there are plenty of those in Mountain View. If number of businesses is strictly limited competition drops and monopolies develop.
17. I have attended numerous community meetings and must say this was the most fair, open and objective gathering from any city.
18. I think dispensaries would be a good thing to stop black market pot and the purity of pot from mold, pesticides, and other chemicals people spray on pot to make the high more potent.
19. I would like residential buffers. Please do not allow dispensaries near schools. The total number of businesses should be controlled.
20. I would like to see zoning available for storefront dispensaries in the downtown Mountain View area (i.e. Castro St). Ideally this would help

businesses as well as the City (provided the city imposes a local marijuana business tax like San Jose has done).

21. It is comforting to know this is benefitting the community so planning is not enlisting rather.
22. Many (10%+) people (especially in urban areas like Mountain View) suffer daily from smoke induced allergies – they can be debilitating or fatal. Please keep cannabis stores far away from residential areas and large workplaces, when considering where to place them. Smoke travels!
23. No limits on the number of licenses issued but do limit zoning placement.
24. Please do not add any additional city tax to cannabis.
25. Prefer limited cannabis commercially in storefront maybe on El Camino.
26. Tax it! Let's do it! Taxes should definitely go to the City preferably education. Fully support.
27. Thank you for the well-planned meeting.



Cannabis Community Meeting

Questions from the Public

Forty-eight (48) question cards were received at the community meeting on February 15, 2018. Questions not responded to at the meeting are listed here with answers. Questions are listed in alphabetical order.

1. For distribution centers, how will they check age for delivery?

State law requires I.D. checks and signature at delivery.

2. How can Mountain View consider medicinal cannabis illegal even though it has been legal since 1996 [in California]?

Personal use of medicinal cannabis (with appropriate prescription from a legal business) has been legal in California since 1996. Commercial medicinal cannabis regulation was left up to local jurisdictions, which were allowed to regulate or completely prohibit commercial cannabis.

3. How much does the City take care about citizen's opinion? If it turns out that, for example, there are a lot of citizens who want "residential buffers" does the City automatically introduce the buffer to the ordinance?

Community input is a key part of staff's process to develop regulations. Ultimately, the ordinance will be adopted by the citizens' elected representatives (the City Council). Other considerations that contribute to the development of an ordinance are technical studies, best practices, and existing City context.

4. Is driving while high legal?

Consuming any drugs or alcohol (including cannabis in any form) in a vehicle is illegal. Driving while high is dangerous, illegal and subject to a DUI (driving under the influence) in all states.

5. They [dispensary employees] often carry large amounts of cash. Can we look out for their safety by something similar to ATM pickups at ATMs located at grocery stores?

Some example regulations (from other jurisdictions) include limitations on the total amount of cash and product a delivery truck can have a single time. The City could consider similar additional regulations.

6. Were there previous rules for Mountain View to prohibit, when were those passed, why/context, etc?

The City has never expressly permitted commercial cannabis. In 2010 the City studied allowing medical cannabis. However, the City Council ultimately adopted an ordinance prohibiting commercial medical cannabis businesses.

7. Why limit the number of dispensaries?

Existing best practice in regulation of commercial cannabis is to initially permit a limited number of businesses. It is always possible that as the industry and regulatory frameworks change, maximum quotas will increase or go away altogether. Other jurisdictions that have legalized and regulated commercial adult-use/recreational cannabis have experienced an extremely high number of permit applications. For example, Santa Ana received about 600 applications in one day. The potential for such a high number of businesses presents the possibility of unknown impacts on other business types in the City, magnifies potential negative impacts from the businesses, and makes regulation and monitoring of the businesses unrealistic.

8. Will home businesses be allowed to sell pot or brownies?

No ordinance has been drafted to this point. Home occupations associated with cannabis businesses are not addressed in the state ordinance. All adopted ordinances reviewed by staff to this point do not permit cannabis business in residential zones. Prohibition of cannabis business as home occupations would be consistent with existing Zoning Code regulations concerning home occupations.

9. Will Mountain View support smaller cannabis businesses attempting to open in Mountain View in lieu of bigger monopolies?

City staff can study possible zoning regulations and methods to encourage or discourage types of businesses. However, doing so may be difficult through zoning.