

MINUTES
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS
FARMINGTON HILLS CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBER
OCTOBER 3, 2022 – 6:00PM

The special meeting of the Farmington Hills City Council was called to order by Mayor Barnett at 6:00pm.

Council Members Present: Barnett, Boleware, Bridges, Bruce, Knol, Massey and Newlin

Council Members Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Mekjian, City Clerk Smith, Assistant City Manager Valentine, Director Kettler-Schmult, Planning Consultant Rod Arroyo and City Attorney Joppich

PUBLIC COMMENTS DURING CANNABIS EDUCATION SESSION

Rod Arroyo, City Planning Consultant from Giffels-Webster, explained that state law provides for the option for a community to permit commercial cannabis facilities for both medical and recreational purposes. To date, Farmington Hills has not opted in to allow medical cannabis facilities under Michigan Marijuana Facilities Act of 2016 and has opted out of allowing recreational facilities under the 2018 Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act. He stated that the City Council and City staff have been monitoring and studying this topic and reviewing information that has come from the state or from other municipalities. In August, 2021, City Council expressed the desire to obtain more information and conduct a 3-phase information gathering plan that included:

- Information gathering from the cannabis industry
- Researching experiences and ordinances from other municipalities, which was obtained through city staff
- Public input to hear from the residents, the purpose of today's session and the session scheduled for tomorrow at 9am

Mr. Arroyo clarified that tonight's information session is intended to gather information from residents and is not designed to be a debate with City Council or others in attendance and is strictly a listening session for residents to share their opinions with City Council.

Mr. Arroyo discussed the rules established for this session noting that questions raised this evening will not be answered but staff will gather those questions to be answered at a later date. He stated that each person will be provided 3 minutes to speak but additional comments or information could be shared via email to the City Clerk. A sign-in sheet has been provided and is not mandatory but available for anyone that wants to be kept up to date on future meetings or information on this topic.

Mayor Barnett opened the meeting up for public comments at this time reminding speakers that they will be limited to 3 minutes and asked that they provide their name and street name for the record.

Leann Bigos, Scott Drive, stated that she was taught as a young person that marijuana was a gateway drug to other drugs and wondered what changed. She read an opinion from a resident of Colorado and the destruction brought to Colorado upon legalizing marijuana and another article in the Denver News regarding increase in crime in those areas with marijuana facilities. She indicated that she does not want

to see cannabis sold in Farmington Hills and is not willing to change the standard of safety in the city and hopes Council is not either. *Articles provided to the City Clerk are included with the minutes.*

Barry Goodman, Herndonwood, stated that he feels there are many myths about cannabis but believes it is actually saving lives and reducing the need for people to be on other drugs such as opioids. He mentioned he owns a cannabis business in Thedford Township, Michigan that has brought in funding for that community and allowed them to hire their first Police Officer. Mr. Goodman added that there are so many rules and regulations required by the State for these facilities even more than those for the sale of alcohol or for hookah lounges, including cameras inside and outside of facilities and there has been very little crime around facilities in this State. He feels these facilities could be a benefit and could bring in millions of dollars for communities around the state.

Ashley Riley, Parklane Circle, stated that she is in favor of Farmington Hills maintaining its opt-out status concerning cannabis and keeping Farmington Hills the safe, family-friendly community that it is now. She stated that if the reason to opt in would be income, she suggested increasing income by an influx of families that would come to be a part of this safe, wholesome community. As a newly elected Precinct Delegate she has heard from others who feel the same as she does on this topic and agree "Not our City". She encouraged Council to say no to this form of commercialism and yes to continue fostering the amazing, family-friendly community we have.

Paul Waug, Colgate, stated that he is in favor of Farmington Hills allowing for licenses if they are in the certain areas such as retail or industrial areas. His concern is with people operating as a cannabis business in residential neighborhoods.

Fai Cheleuka, Middlebelt Road, doesn't believe we can stop people from using drugs and children and families are dying to addiction so perhaps legalizing marijuana for the right reasons is a good idea but she questioned how the city would ensure the safety of the drugs and ensure that Farmington Hills benefits from having these businesses in the community.

Michael O'Connell, W. Lyman, stated that he has been a resident for 30 years and is also a small business owner in Farmington Hills and would have no problem with having a dispensary or retail cannabis store next to his store. He added that he is his wife's caregiver and has to drive to other communities such as Walled Lake or Detroit in order to purchase cannabis for her and he would prefer to buy it here in Farmington Hills and have the tax dollars stay in Farmington Hills.

Sam Riley, Parklane Circle, stated that he would like Farmington Hills to continue to opt-out as his family chose to live here because of the safety and the fact that Farmington Hills was a family community. He is concerned with the perception it would bring to the city if it were more involved in the cannabis industry.

Kerry Arold, Power Road, stated that he has lived in Farmington Hills his entire life and was diagnosed with diverticulitis and cannabis has helped him through all of his surgeries. He also became a caregiver to multiple patients so that he could help others get back to a normal life. He also uses CBD to treat his son who has autism so it has helped his family. He believes the fear behind it is unjustified and there are more statistics that crime has decreased rather than increased in areas where cannabis is sold

John Kallabat, Attorney representing a business on Indoplex in Farmington Hills, commented that regardless of whether it has been legalized to sell or grow marijuana in Farmington Hills, people are still doing it and he feels setting up a system where you can have responsible business owners in designated areas would be beneficial to the city, residents and will generate revenue. It could also help revitalize the city by using vacant buildings.

Harry Barrish, cannabis industry specialist in real estate and resident of W. Bloomfield, spoke of the lack of retail cannabis stores in Metro Detroit and specifically Oakland County. He added that these types of businesses do more in the way of community partnerships because they are required to and most are happy to do so. He noted that many caregivers that have invested in Farmington Hills may not be doing well could potentially benefit from being part of a state-licensed facility. The industry is projected to be a \$3 billion industry and many communities are reaping tax benefits and Farmington Hills could fill a void for retail establishments and would be an attractive community in which to do business.

Jessica Schefman, Hemlock Ct., spoke to the rise in crime and concerns over contamination of drugs being myths. She stated contaminating the drugs in an industry that is so regulated is frankly not cost effective and there is no incentive. She added there is no correlation with the industry and a rise in crime. She commented that while marijuana can be habit-forming, it is not addictive and so having access to marijuana in Farmington Hills could potentially help with the addiction seen with other drugs.

David Misko, real estate agent representing Farmington Hills clients, commented that in the past few years he has sold properties for the cannabis industry and the owners of these businesses put hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars into the buildings and are great community partners. He believes the industry could benefit the community and help revitalize some of the vacant buildings.

Jeffrey Jameel, Indoplex Circle, stated that he is a business owner in Farmington Hills and pointed out that part of the process of applying for a state license is providing for a social equity plan as part of that application that includes giving back to the community in which you are established. He noted the 4 pillars and something he has put together is access, education, advocacy and giving back. Access includes career opportunities, education by way of mentorships and being a voice for employees and giving back to the community by way of food, transportation and resources for residents.

Mayor Barnett closed the public portion as there was nobody else wishing to speak. She acknowledged the following letters or emails received prior to the meeting:

- Residents expressing concern with the negative mental impact of THC on adolescents that they have experienced first-hand in their family
- Bill Benton, resident, concerned with bringing cannabis into Farmington Hills. He included several articles from the Wall Street Journal
- Leslie Kuhn, resident, expressing concern over the city facilitating or promoting use of cannabis in Farmington Hills
- Deborah Harris, resident, inquiring about the impact of dispensaries on the community – including property value, attracting new residents and businesses to the community and odor.

Mayor Barnett also mentioned that there will be another public session tomorrow starting at 9am at City Hall and welcomes and appreciates all comments and concerns expressed by the public.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION by Knol, support by Massey, to adjourn the special meeting at 6:41pm.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela B. Smith, City Clerk



Dr. Ken Finn, president of the American Board of Pain Medicine and a vice president of International Academy on the Science and Impacts of Cannabis, in an interview with NTD's The Nation Speaks on Oct. 1, 2022. (NTD)

PREMIUM **POLICIES & IMPACTS**

Sharp Rise in Marijuana-Related Psychosis: American Board of Pain Medicine President

Cannabis products are produced to have extremely high percentages of THC

By [Masooma Haq](#) and [Cindy Drukier](#)

October 4, 2022 Updated: October 4, 2022



Print

As drug legalization groups and the cannabis industry lobby to legalize cannabis across the United States, with initiatives to legalize marijuana on the November ballot in five more states, many experts warn this will only increase the physical and mental harm from the unregulated, high-potency cannabis.

President of the American Board of Pain Medicine and a vice president of the International Academy on the Science and Impacts of Cannabis, Dr. Ken Finn, said high potency cannabis use is being linked to poisonings in young children, as well as psychosis and schizophrenia in an increasing number of regular users.

“A lot of my colleagues that work in psychiatry and emergency medicine are seeing a sharp rise in marijuana-related psychosis,” Finn [told NTD’s The Nation Speaks](#) in an Oct. 1 interview.

Related Coverage

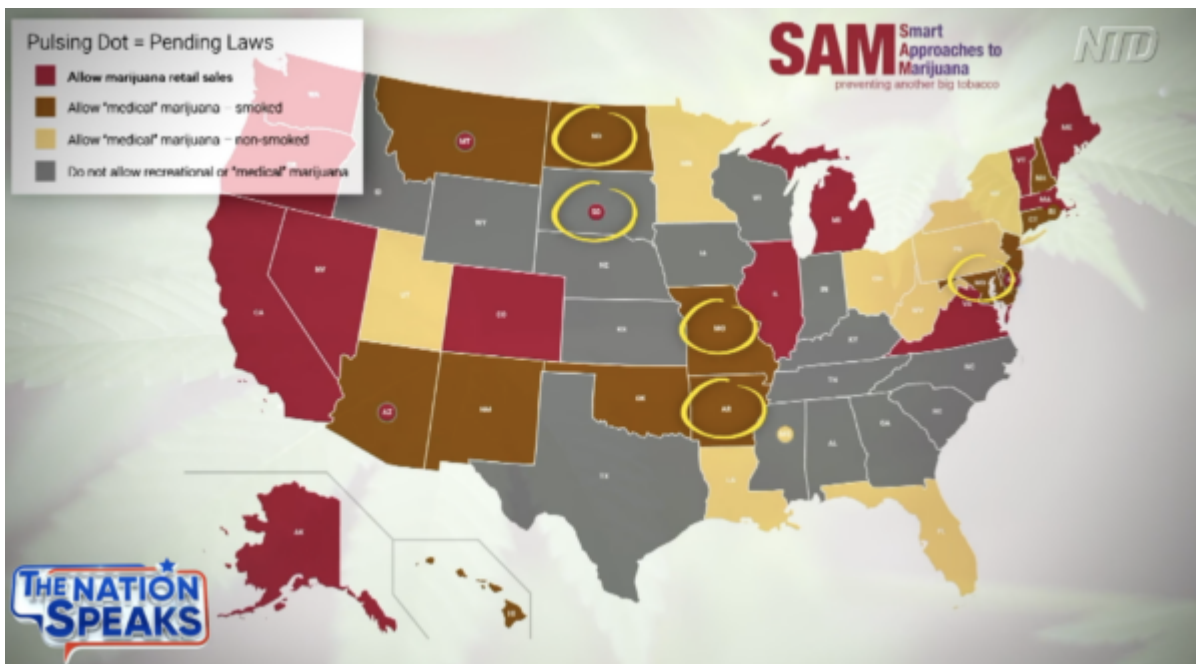


[Marijuana Legalization: Big Win or Big Mistake? Colorado 10 Years Later](#)

Data from Europe ties these mental health problems to high levels of the THC chemical in cannabis that causes people to feel high, Finn said.

“The [European data](#) shows that there’s a fivefold increase risk of first-episode psychosis with what they described as

high potency THC, which generally is about 10%. So we are really in uncharted waters here [in Colorado, with THC potencies of between 40 to 60 percent], with all these states going down this pathway.”



Five states seen on NTD's The Nation Speaks that have legalizing cannabis on the Nov. ballot. (NTD)

“The NIH came out with a paper last week showing that kids that are exposed [to cannabis] in utero tend to have psychotic-like episodes by the time they’re 10 years of age,” Finn warned.

Supercharged

Ben Cort, author of “Weed, Inc.: The Truth About the Pot Lobby, THC, and the Commercial Marijuana Industry,” said the reason that cannabis products are increasing their THC content is to offset the tolerance threshold existing users have developed to the compound.

“The more problems the user [has], the higher the concentration they have to consume, and the more frequently they have to consume, just to come back to that dopamine baseline,” Cort told The Nation Speaks.

“It’s just inevitable that in a commercialized market that depends on problem use, you will end up with these 99.9% pure THC products.”

“They’ve so supercharged it [cannabis products] and changed fundamentally what it is, it’s become a really significant issue,” he said.

While cannabis-induced psychosis won't affect most people after they halt their use, for some, it can persist for weeks or months before things return to normal, Finn said. "So this is potentially a very dangerous product, particularly if there's a young person that is exposed."

There just aren't enough placements available for the mental health care needed, he said.

"And in a very rare circumstance, sometimes [the psychosis] doesn't reverse at all," he added. "There's a very strong correlation to cannabis use of high potency with schizophrenia, although the link of a causal effect has not clearly been proven but it's strongly suspected."



Edible cannabis products are displayed at Essence Vegas Cannabis Dispensary before the midnight start of recreational marijuana sales in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 30, 2017. The next day, Nevada joined seven other states allowing recreational marijuana. (Ethan Miller/Getty Images)

Growing Problem Users

[Monitoring the Future's](#) panel study found that marijuana use by young adults 19- to 30-years-old increased significantly in 2021 compared to previous years, which Cort said shows a "lower perception of risk" in the community although the actual risk has gone up.

“The lower the perception of risk for any substance, the higher the use rate will be,” he said.

“Any sort of industry that has addictive potential is absolutely dependent on the ‘problem user,’” Cort said. Just like in the alcohol industry, where roughly 20 percent of consumers drink 80 percent of the alcohol, seven percent of the consumers who buy cannabis represent 76 percent of sales, he added.

[According to a study](#) from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health and NYU School of Medicine, states in which recreational marijuana use is legal have seen a 26 percent increase in use among young adults as well as an increase in problem users.

An Unregulated Industry



Edible marijuana samples are set aside for evaluation at Cannalysis, a cannabis testing laboratory, in Santa Ana, Calif., on Aug. 22, 2018. (AP, Chris Carlson/The Canadian Press)

“Poison control calls are skyrocketing across the country in states that have both medical and recreational [cannabis] programs, particularly in the zero to five age group,” Finn said.

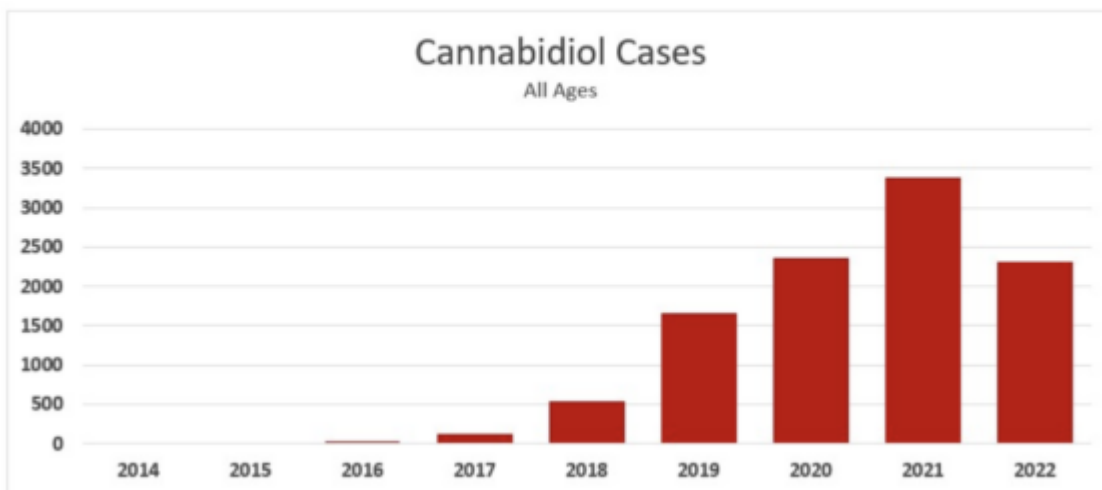
Finn is concerned that because the industry has circumvented the FDA drug development process, many of the products available tend to be contaminated with fungicides, anticoagulants, rodenticides, heavy metals, and sometimes mislabeled.

In addition, many cannabis products labeled to contain CBD—a secondary chemical in cannabis that does help with relaxation but does not elicit euphoric states—actually contain THC, Finn warned.

Children will accidentally get a hold of edible cannabis products that often look like candy but because they are unregulated, is of super high THC potency, Cort said.

A factor that contributes to children ending up in hospital is that edibles are sold by weight, not potency.

As of September 30, 2022, poison control centers have managed 2,318 cases in 2022 related to cannabidiol.



courtesy of “National Poison Data System, American Association of Poison Control Centers.”

Profit

“Multinational corporate interests,” which care a lot about profit, are behind the cannabis industry, Cort said. “The idea here is absolutely not social justice, nor any sort of reform in a meaningful way. The intent here is to get richer.”

Many of the organizations that advocate for legalizing marijuana and other drugs say it would promote social and racial justice because it would prevent black and brown people from going to jail for drug offenses, and instead help them access treatment for their addiction. They claim that legalizing marijuana would also create jobs, save on health costs, and make the products safer than what would otherwise become a black market.

The marijuana industry has little to no regulation and is similar to how the tobacco industry used to be before the public was made aware of the health risks and some guardrails were put in place, Cort said.

“The only thing that changed, both the opiate world with the pharmaceutical companies and the tobacco companies, was tort,” he said. “It really is going to take massive lawsuits to change any of this because these people making money hand over fist are absolutely not going to change it on their own accord.”

Leann Bigos on Scott Dr.

I remember when we talked about Drugs at school when I was a kid. We were taught that Marijuana leads to other drugs, it was a gateway. What changed? We are now told by cannabis store owners, the cannabis growers that is no longer the case. Why is it no longer the case? Because they will profit from the sale?

from a NewsMax Sept 2022 an opinion from a resident of Broomfield, Colorado

I read that there is growing support for marijuana. Colorado was the first state to vote to do so, and it's brought nothing but destruction to Denver. The city and its surrounding area are now full of homeless encampments. In the suburb where I live, crime increased 36% since last year. Legalizing marijuana helped bring about these scenarios. A study by Centennial Institute shows Colorado loses about \$4.50 for every dollar the industry makes on Marijuana. Only those heading the Marijuana industry make money. Destructive lifestyles cost all of us.

(<https://news.ucdenver.edu/do-marijuana-dispensaries-increase-neighborhood-crime/>)

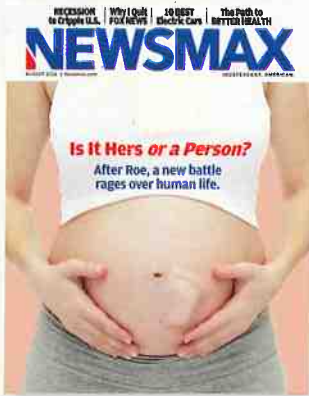
Another article in Denver news Feb 2019- Lorine A. Hughes, PhD, associate professor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado Denver, led the study. The study looked at data from 2012-2015

"We found that neighborhoods with one or more medical or recreational ^{stores} dispensary saw increased crime rates that were 26 percent and higher than in neighborhoods without any commercial marijuana activity,"

Article also noted Measures of crime and disorder were drawn from the Denver Police Department and included aggravated assault, auto theft, burglary, drug and alcohol offenses, murder, public disorder, robbery and theft from a car.

Currently in Southfield it is for sale as medical only. The Cannabis industry is back talking with Southfield City Council as they want to now add recreational sales. The industry is not making enough money selling it as medical only.

I know it is already legal in Michigan. As a resident of Farmington Hills for over 30 years I would not like Cannabis sold in the city limits. I am not willing to change the standard of safety we have in this city. I hope you don't either.



THE TRUE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE

Following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, can we honestly look for a reduction in abortions? ("Is It Hers or a Person?" August). These days, there is little value for human life — at any stage. As your excellent article points out, "Pro-life organizations nationwide are sounding the alarm over the rising prevalence of mail-order abortions that are now more prevalent than surgical abortions." It will take more than politicians or the courts to change people's views on the sanctity of life. Let's start by focusing on the family.

GUSTAVO DICREMI
New Orleans, La.

I'm distressed that conservative leaders in government and the church don't address the fundamental issue: The flip side of freedom is responsibility. It's downright amusing when abortion providers style themselves as being "pro-abortion rights" and women demand the right to control their body. Here's the news flash: You retain the right to choose and have control when you make responsible choices. Irresponsible choices rob you of choice. If a woman chooses to have sex outside of marriage and ends up pregnant, bearing and raising the child should be the consequence. Why that is not being exhorted daily by conservative leaders escapes me, and many, in our great nation.

JERRY JAMES
Tulsa, Okla.

LETHAL POT

I read in Newsmax of the growing support to legalize marijuana. Colorado was the first state to vote to do so, and it's brought nothing but destruction to Denver. The city and its environs are now full of homeless encampments. In the suburb where I live, crime increased 36% since last year. Legalizing marijuana helped bring about these scenarios. A study by Centennial Institute shows Colorado loses about \$4.50 for every dollar it makes on marijuana. Only those heading the marijuana industry make money. Destructive lifestyles

cost all of us ("Big Data: Most Want Feds to Legalize Pot," July).

DAN REUTER
Broomfield, Colo.

NEWSMAX DEPENDABLE

Newsmax gets it, Fox News doesn't. People have had enough of cable news networks calling themselves conservative only to cave to "woke" and alternative lifestyles ("Fox News Transgender Betrayal," August). It was good that you also included the companion story in which Megyn Kelly called Fox "irresponsible" for airing a story sympathetic to transgenderism. Newsmax will most certainly be getting more converts to its dependable brand of news.

GIUSEPPE BROZ
Houston, Texas

CAVING TO CHINA

Team Biden has been bought by the Chinese, and we can safely say that China owns America. Just wait until the end of 2024, and America sees how it has been destroyed by Sleepy Joe. He and his ilk want to eliminate all genuine American conservatism. He's helped take away freedom of speech and the right to own your opinions ("Biden's Last Hurrah," July).

CAROL GALVIN
Boston, Mass.

DREAM TEAMS

Of course Donald Trump will run and win in 2024. Gov. Ron DeSantis,

R-Fla., is the best choice for his running mate. Gov. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., is also a good choice. Doesn't matter when he announces it, he will win over anyone running against him. Trump will get us out of the horrible mess Shortcut Joe has put us all in. We need to vote for strength, not weakness, or in this case, a brain that's awake and can actually think rationally ("Democrats Go Far Left," June).

AIMÉE HEARN
Groveton, Texas

CARSON A BEACON

Thank you for featuring the inspirational Dr. Ben Carson ("Ben Carson: Corporate Media Dividing Americans," July). He asks if we want to build our future on our successes or our failures. That gets at the heart of those who would gripe — playing the race and gender cards — to those who count their many blessings this country still offers. Doing the latter is what Dr. Carson is all about. He deserves our hearty, full-throated support.

MERILL TALMANY
New York, N.Y.

FANTASYLAND

Is the Democratic Party moving toward complete collapse? Congressional Democrats performing Kabuki theater, climate change "Chicken Littles" totally living in fantasyland, and a president who now babbles. Our nation is a

Continued on page