April 19, 2018

Stevenson City Council
Stevenson, WA

Dear Council Members,

I regret that I cannot be present to address the council in person regarding the proposal to reduce the marijuana license buffer zone. I am offering the following written comments and am hopeful the council will consider them in your discussion.

As you are most likely aware, the law has been modified to allow for a reduction in the 1000-foot buffer zone for most of the areas originally affected. Currently, the law still maintains a 1000-foot buffer from elementary schools, secondary schools and public playgrounds. Based on my knowledge of the potential proposed location of a future retail marijuana store in Stevenson, it may very well be within the authority of the council to reduce the buffer zone without violating the 1000-foot requirement as defined in RCW 69.50.331(8).

I am hopeful that the Council will look past the short-term question of reducing the buffer zone and recognize the long-term impacts of an affirmative vote on this issue.

The data coming from the State of Colorado illustrates the harmful impacts of the proliferation of marijuana legalization. There is real data showing the increase in marijuana related DUI, juvenile use and abuse, impact to animals, a higher need for addiction related services and marijuana related driving fatalities. The State of Washington, coming into the legalization game a few years later, will most likely realize much of the same statistical data that we see from Colorado.

From a professional and personal perspective, I do not desire to see the City of Stevenson connected to these types of social and economic impacts as it relates to increased access to marijuana. Additionally, the impact to the criminal justice system continues to expand through the pressures of increased access to marijuana.

All of you, as elected officials, know better than I what the vision for the City of Stevenson is. I urge the council to debate this issue as it relates to the future of the City and what you hope to leave as a legacy for your families, the business community and those who choose to visit and recreate in the Gorge. As a small community with limited resources, I am convinced we will continue to struggle combatting the harmful impacts of the growth of this industry. You are able to manage these impacts through your decision-making process.

Because your vision and your commitment to establishing a strong community will have impacts long after your public service ends, I ask you to consider your decision from the ten-thousand-foot level and look beyond the short-term effect of a buffer zone reduction.

Sincerely,

Dave Brown
Sheriff
AGENDA
CITY OF STEVENSON COUNCIL MEETING
April 19, 2018
6:00 p.m., City Hall

1. CALL TO ORDER: Presentation of the flag. Mayor to call the meeting to order, lead the group in reciting the pledge of allegiance and conduct roll call. Councilmember Jenny Taylor requests an excused absence.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: [The Mayor may add agenda items or take agenda items out of order with the concurrence of the majority of the Council.]

3. CONSENT AGENDA: The following items are presented for Council approval. [Consent agenda items are intended to be passed by a single motion to approve all listed actions. If discussion of an individual item is requested by a Council member, that item should be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately after approval of the remaining consent agenda items.]
   a) Minutes of March 15, 2018 City Council Meeting
   b) Water adjustment – Living Faith Church (meter No. 204900) requests a water adjustment of $38.13 for a waterline break which they have since repaired.
   c) Water adjustment – Jared Rogers (meter No. 608000) requests a water adjustment of $55.30 for a waterline break which they have since repaired.
   d) Special Occasion Liquor license application – Stevenson Business Association at the Skamania Fairgrounds on June 22nd from 6pm to 10pm and June 23rd from 2pm to 10pm.
   e) Special Occasion Liquor license application – The Oregon Seed Association at Skamania Lodge Conference Business Center on June 21st from 5pm to 7:30pm.
   f) Liquor License Renewal – Fraternal Order of Eagles #360505.
   g) Liquor License Renewal – Skamania Lodge #077692.
   h) Liquor License Renewal – Walking Man Brewing, LLC #082190.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS: [This is an opportunity for members of the audience to address the Council. If you wish to address the Council, please sign in to be recognized by the Mayor. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. The Mayor may extend or further limit these time periods at his discretion. The Mayor may allow citizens to comment on individual agenda items outside of the public comment period at his discretion.]

5. OLD BUSINESS
   a) Discuss Proposal to Reduce Marijuana Licence Buffer Zone – Teresa Stacy requests the City reduce the buffer zone from 1,000 feet to 400 feet measured as the shortest straight line between the property line of the potential location to the property line of any elementary and secondary school and public playground. A copy of her request and a draft code language is attached. Public comment will be taken during the discussion.
Distance from Restricted Entities

Per RCW 69.50.331(8) the board shall not issue a new marijuana license if the proposed licensed business is within one thousand feet of the following entities.

The distance will be measured as the shortest straight line between the property line of the potential location to the property line of the grounds of the entities listed below:

- Elementary or secondary school;
- Playground;
- Recreation center or facility;
- Child care center;
- Public park;
- Public transit center;
- Library; or
- Any game arcade (where admission is not restricted to persons age twenty-one or older).

Recent legislation allows local governments to reduce the 1000-foot buffer requirements to 100 feet around all entities except elementary and secondary schools and public playgrounds.

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Marijuana Licensing

Marijuana Licensing FAQ

Distance from Restricted Entities

Initial Interview and Additional Documents

Local Authority Notification

Public Comment

License Approval or Denial

Criminal History Record Check

Applications

Marijuana Licensing Applications

Helpful Resources

Dept. of Health Website

Dept. of Revenue Website
8)(a) Except as provided in (b) through (d) of this subsection, the state liquor and cannabis board may not issue a license for any premises within one thousand feet of the perimeter of the grounds of any elementary or secondary school, playground, recreation center or facility, child care center, public park, public transit center, or library, or any game arcade admission to which is not restricted to persons aged twenty-one years or older.

(b) A city, county, or town may permit the licensing of premises within one thousand feet but not less than one hundred feet of the facilities described in (a) of this subsection, except elementary schools, secondary schools, and playgrounds, by enacting an ordinance authorizing such distance reduction, provided that such distance reduction will not negatively impact the jurisdiction's civil regulatory enforcement, criminal law enforcement interests, public safety, or public health.

(c) A city, county, or town may permit the licensing of research premises allowed under RCW 69.50.372 within one thousand feet but not less than one hundred feet of the facilities described in (a) of this subsection by enacting an ordinance authorizing such distance reduction, provided that the ordinance will not negatively impact the jurisdiction's civil regulatory enforcement, criminal law enforcement, public safety, or public health.

(d) The state liquor and cannabis board may license premises located in compliance with the distance requirements set in an ordinance adopted under (b) or (c) of this subsection. Before issuing or renewing a research license for premises within one thousand feet but not less than one hundred feet of an elementary school, secondary school, or playground in compliance with an ordinance passed pursuant to (c) of this subsection, the board must ensure that the facility:

(i) Meets a security standard exceeding that which applies to marijuana producer, processor, or retailer licensees;

(ii) Is inaccessible to the public and no part of the operation of the facility is in view of the general public; and

(iii) Bears no advertising or signage indicating that it is a marijuana research facility.