

POB 616

Monument Beach, MA 02553-0616

13 June 2023

Jennifer Copeland

Bourne Town Planner

Hi Jennifer,

Per request of Mr. Doucette, please find enclosed copies of three items:

- 1) The Barnstable School Committee statement from which I read the marked selections at the Bourne Planning Board meeting of 8 June 2023.
- 2) The letter from the Bourne Opt-Out Committee, dated 1 November 2018, addressed to the Bourne Board of Selectmen and to the Bourne Planning Board.
- 3) The letter from myself on behalf of the Bourne Opt-Out and the Bourne Cares committees, dated 7 November 2018, addressed to the Bourne School Committee.

Thank you for your service to Bourne!

All the best,


Doug Oesterheld

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TOWN PLANNER
TOWN OF BOURNE

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All the best,



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School Committee Position Statement Adult-Use Marijuana

✓ We, the School Committee of the Barnstable Public Schools, stand in opposition to any amendment to current zoning regulations that would create cannabis overlay districts within the Town of Barnstable. We support the prohibition of non-medical marijuana establishments in all zoning districts.

✓ The Committee believes that legalizing the commercialization of marijuana through cultivation and sale in the Town of Barnstable is not in the best interest of our students. Increasing accessibility to legalized, adult use marijuana sends the wrong message to our students. We believe that the Council has the opportunity to send a clear, concise and unequivocal message to our students that the adults of this community will not put our own commercial or recreational interests above their safety and wellbeing and we will not be hypocrites telling students to "Just Say No" while simultaneously marketing edibles and other enticing marijuana products.

✓ Despite changing social norms, marijuana is an addictive substance that presents many risks, especially to its youngest users. According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse, a subunit of the National Institutes of Health, as many as 30% of marijuana users suffer from some degree of marijuana use disorder. Individuals who begin using marijuana before the age of 18 are four to seven times more likely than adults to develop marijuana use disorder.¹ Right now, the best research available tells us that repeated marijuana use has a particularly negative impact on adolescents and young adults. While research into the causal relationship is ongoing, exposure to THC is currently linked to a number of poor life outcomes for adolescents. "In the short term, marijuana use has been shown to impair functions such as attention, memory, learning and decision-making. Those effects can last for days after the high wears off. Heavy marijuana use in adolescents or early adulthood has been associated with a dismal set of life outcomes including poor school performance, higher dropout rates, increased welfare dependence, greater unemployment and lower life satisfaction."²

✓ Every year, the District devotes significant time and resources to educating students about these risks while simultaneously helping them develop the skills and strategies necessary to make healthy, safe choices for themselves. Introducing Recreational Marijuana Establishments into our community will send students mixed messages regarding these risks.

✓ Multiple research studies have demonstrated that children of marijuana users are at an increased risk of use themselves. Consequently, even if the intention is to only provide access to legal, adult users, we would, in fact, be creating an environment that, by adult actions and behavior, normalizes and encourages marijuana use.

¹ "Is marijuana addictive?" <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/marijuana/marijuana-addictive> (July 24, 2018).

² Weir, Kirsten "Marijuana and the Developing Brain," *Monitor on Psychology*, American Psychological Association, Vol 46, No. 10, Nov. 2015, retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/monitor/2015/11/marijuana-brain.aspx>, July 24, 2018.

Finally, as we have learned through the mass marketing of cigarettes, e-cigarettes and alcohol, the commercialization of any product inevitably targets children. The introduction of edibles further increases the allure to children and adolescents and reduces detectability for adults. Fudgy brownies, moist cookies and colorful gummies do not come with the telltale cloud of skunky smoke. They are far more discrete and, therefore, dangerous for our students.

To: Town of Bourne:

1 November 2018

Board of Selectmen
Planning Board

At our Town Meeting on 1 October 2018, Bourne citizens voted to ban the sale of recreational marijuana within our town. In the general election of 2016, a majority of Bourne citizens voted to ban marijuana sales, as did citizens in many other Massachusetts towns. Our Town Meeting vote confirmed that decision. Bourne citizens may seek elective office on this issue.

We note that opposition to the ban centered on the purported loss of revenues that might obtain from local taxes on recreational pot sales. The sense of meeting attendees was that a plurality of Selectmen and Planning Board members endorsed that position. Facilitating that position, the Voter Handbook postulated three revenue scenarios, but failed to identify potential costs due to an "absence of data."

Although no 'hard' data could be cited as a cost of legalized recreational pot availability in Bourne, economic and societal cost data can be inferred from the experiences of other entities. Salient points:

Economic costs:

- Increase in traffic accidents and fatalities
- Increase in homicide and other violent crimes, including assaults and rapes
- Increase in home break-ins and thefts, especially targeting unoccupied dwellings
- Increase in car burglaries and thefts
- Increase in insurance rates
- Decrease in property values
- Increase in need for regulatory oversight
- Increase in need for police and first responder resources

Societal costs:

- Increase in transient population
- Increase in competition for medical resources
- Impaired human capital (e.g., positive drug tests that disqualify employment)

Furthermore, Bourne's ban on recreational use of marijuana importantly serves to limit the availability and social acceptance of marijuana use by Bourne youth. We have separately requested that the School Committee provide responsible leadership on this matter.

To uphold the expressed will of the majority of Bourne residents, expressed both in the 2016 General Election and Town Meeting, we ask that you publicly support the ban on recreational marijuana sales in Bourne.

George Seaver, Bourne Opt-Out Committee

Linda Zuern, Bourne Cares

Concerned Bourne Citizens

To: School Committee Members, Town of Bourne

7 November 2018

Christopher Hydlburg, Chairperson
Mitch McClain, Vice-Chairperson
Erika Fitzpatrick
Steven Strojay

Steven Lamarche, Superintendent
Robert Duprey
Jennifer O'Neil
Ronda Tobey

At our Special Town Meeting on 1 October 2018, Bourne residents voted to ban the sale of recreational marijuana within Bourne. The ban serves to limit the availability and social acceptance of marijuana use by Bourne youth.

The biologic evidence of adverse effects of marijuana use on the developing child's brain is persuasive:
in the short-term,

- Impaired memory, making it difficult to learn and to retain information;
- Impaired neural coordination, interfering with driving skills and increasing risk of injuries;
- Altered judgment;

in the long-term,

- Altered brain development;
- Poor educational outcome, with increased likelihood of dropping out of school;
- Cognitive impairment;
- Addiction (17 percent of those who begin in adolescence).

There are precedents for the School Committee to lead community policy in both educational and non-educational environments. In example, according to the "Expectations" section of District policy on 'bullying,' the policy:

"does not limit the school's authority to take disciplinary action or take remedial action when such bullying occurs out of school but has a connection to school, or is disruptive to a student's work or participation in school related activities."

Marijuana use disrupts "a student's work or participation in school related activities."

A more recent precedent: in April 2018, a majority of School Committee members voted to sign "the Parkland Project" letter to be forwarded to President Trump to demand action on gun control matters. Action to limit the availability and social acceptance of marijuana use for Bourne youth even more so demands your support.

As explicit guardians of Bourne youth, you, present members of the Bourne School Committee, can endorse the decision of Bourne voters to ban the sale of recreational marijuana by public statement and policy initiative. We urge that you do so.

Douglas Oesterheld, Concerned Citizen

Members, Bourne Opt-Out Committee and Bourne Cares

Addenda: Statement: Barnstable School Committee Against Legalization of Recreational Marijuana
Policy Statement (excerpt): American Academy of Pediatrics
Study (excerpt): Journal of Clinical Psychiatry