

DELAWARE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

280 PHOEBE LANE • SUITE ONE
DELHI, NEW YORK 13753



Craig S. DuMond
Sheriff

Timothy M. Buckley
Undersheriff

June 15, 2021

Dear Supervisor Cetta and Walton Town Board,

I write to you today to encourage you to support a resolution that would prohibit the operation of certain cannabis related industries in the Town of Walton.

The recently enacted cannabis statute allows for local governments to opt-out of the “privilege” of having a cannabis dispensary or consumption venue located within its jurisdiction. But this action must be taken before December 31st, 2021. If localities fail to exercise this option by that date, they will forfeit the ability to exercise this prerogative.

To not take advantage of this local opt-out provision would be a mistake. We have seen in other states how increases in the rates of cannabis use, as a result of industry proliferation, only lead to negative outcomes. More drugged driving, greater use of cannabis by underage individuals, the entrenchment of the existing black market for cannabis...in every place where cannabis has been legalized, these things have come to pass:

- A new report in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs found that children in California are significantly more likely to use marijuana since its legalization there in 2016.
- Data from over three million 7th, 9th, and 11th grade students who participated in the California Healthy Kids Survey from 2010-2011 through 2018-2019 school years revealed a “significant increase” in marijuana usage. This data revealed an 18% increase in the likelihood of lifetime marijuana use and a 23% increase in past 30-day usage since California legalized marijuana.
- In Colorado, the annual rate of marijuana-related emergency department visits increased by 62% from 2012 to 2017 and marijuana-related poisoning hospitalization rates in Colorado rose by 143% from 2012 to 2017 (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 2019).
- In Washington State, the share of drivers who, after a fatal crash, tested positive for active THC has doubled since the state legalized marijuana in December 2012

The meager financial gains that might be reaped by having a cannabis dispensary or consumption venue in your Town will be far outweighed by negative outcomes listed above.

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In closing, I strongly urge you to take advantage of this fleeting opportunity, and choose to keep your community safe.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. DuMond".

Craig S. DuMond, Sheriff
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