

November 29, 2018

(Replaces November 19th letter)

Denver City Council
Special Issues Marijuana Committee
1437 Bannock Street
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Protect Denver Kids

Dear Chairwoman Ms. Black, Committee Councilmembers Mr. Clark, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Herndon, Mr. Kashmann, Mr. New and Ms. Susman:

On behalf of the undersigned, we request that the Special Issues Committee oppose the Neighborhood Supported Social Use Task Force recommendations to remove distance requirements for Designated Consumption Areas (DCAs) from child care establishments, public pools and recreation centers, or to allow a waiver of the distance requirements established in ordinance or rule.

The 1,000 foot distance requirements between Denver marijuana businesses and schools and child care establishments have a long history of support by Denver City Council. The 1,000 foot restrictions from schools and child care establishments were adopted by City Council for medical marijuana centers in 2010 and for retail marijuana stores in 2013. It was a sensible consensus decision by the Social Consumption Advisory Committee (SCAC) to recommend that Denver Excise and License apply the same distance restrictions to DCAs, especially given the emphasis on consistency of regulations for all marijuana businesses.

In addition, applying a 1,000 foot distance requirement to public outdoor pools and recreation centers acknowledges that these are also places where children congregate. This represents the priority, value and commitment that Denver holds to protect kids, especially those children that need additional support.

Regulated marijuana products sold in medical marijuana centers and retail marijuana stores are getting into the hands of Denver kids. The latest Marijuana Market Study commissioned by the Marijuana Enforcement Division of the Colorado Department of Revenue concluded that "there are individuals under the age of 21 who consume marijuana and it seems reasonable that the source for some portion of the marijuana consumed is from the regulated market."

Denver is the epicenter of marijuana commercialization in the state with 34% of all sales occurring in the city and county. According to the 2017 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS), Denver high school students replied that marijuana tops the list for substances "sort of easy" or "very easy" to get. They said marijuana is easier to get than alcohol, cigarettes or pharmaceuticals, according to HKCS. In fact, 56% of Denver high school respondents said marijuana was sort of easy or very easy to get.

The 2017 HKCS provides other distressing comparisons. Denver high school students are more likely than high school students across the state:

1. to have tried marijuana (14% more likely)
2. to have used marijuana in the past 30 days (almost 8% more likely), and
3. to have vaped marijuana (42% more likely).

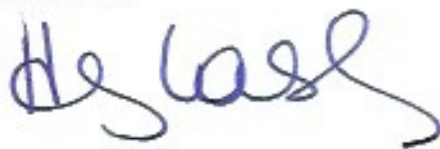
And the reverse also holds true. Denver high school students are less likely than high school students across the state:

1. to perceive moderate or great harm from regular marijuana use (14% less likely), and
2. to think it is wrong or very wrong for someone their age to use marijuana (5% less likely).

Denver City Council represents ALL Denver citizens, including our youngest members. In consideration of the facts concerning youth marijuana use in Denver, we believe it is vital that the distance restrictions between DCAs and schools, child care establishments, and public pools and recreation centers remain in effect without right of waiver.

Please contact me at (720)350-5366 if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,



Henny Lasley
Co-founder and Executive Director

Attachment: Petition Support

Cc: Mayor Michael Hancock
Councilmember Albus Brooks
Councilmember Rafael Espinoza
Councilmember Stacie Gilmore

Councilmember Robin Kniech
Councilmember Paul Lopez
Councilmember Debbie Ortega
Ashley Kilroy, Executive Director, Dept. Of Excise & Licenses
Molly Duplechian, Deputy Director of Policy and Administration
Allan Salazar, Chief of Staff
Kristen Bronson, City Attorney