

NOTICE OF COMMITTEE MEETING

ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

**Councilman Paul Vincent, Chair
Councilman Dwight Clark
Councilman David L. Tadych**

Monday, October 10, 2016

5:30 p.m.

**Council Chambers
Bay Village City Hall**

Agenda

**Chapter 505 – Dog Ordinances and Related Issues
Green Paper, Chapter 505
Medical Marijuana**

October 10, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I invite you to review the August 12, 2016 Federal Register documenting the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)'s conclusion that "marijuana has a high potential for abuse, has no accepted medical use in the United States, and lacks an acceptable level of safety for use even under medical supervision."

As a result of this conclusion, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended "continued control of marijuana in Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act" and the U.S. Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) concluded that "there is no substantial evidence that marijuana should be removed from Schedule I." Accordingly, on July 19, 2016, the DEA denied a petition to reschedule the drug.

These conclusions were based on established standards applicable to all drugs, including a five-part test used to determine "medical use." Marijuana failed all five parts of that test: "the drug's chemistry is not known and reproducible; there are no adequate safety studies; there are no adequate and well controlled studies proving efficacy; the drug is not accepted by qualified experts; and the scientific evidence is not widely available."

The FDA reviewed 566 scientific articles in developing its conclusion. None of these studies proved efficacy of marijuana for any therapeutic indication. However, "the opportunity for scientists to conduct clinical research with marijuana exists; and there are active investigational new drug applications for marijuana."

Indeed, two drugs containing synthetic "cannabinoid compounds that are structurally related to the active components in marijuana" have been approved by the FDA. Marinol and Cesamet were approved for the treatment of nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy in 1985. Marinol's indication was extended to include the treatment of anorexia for patients with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) in 1992.

The FDA explains that marijuana contains at least 525 natural constituents and 100 cannabinoids. The two drugs approved by the FDA with synthetic cannabinoid compounds that are structurally related to the active components in marijuana have an acceptable potential for abuse, an accepted medical use and an acceptable level of safety. Marijuana, in contrast, does not. "Marijuana is not an FDA-approved drug product."

The FDA notes that state-level medical marijuana laws "do not have sufficient collection of data related to medical treatment, including efficacy and safety" and that such laws "do not provide evidence of a consensus among qualified experts that marijuana is safe and effective for use in treating a specific, recognized disorder" due to legislators' lack of "scientific training and experience to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drugs."

In my opinion, the FDA's standards for evaluating the safety and efficacy of drugs represents the best and most widely-accepted standard for such a process in the United States. I believe subverting the FDA's process is unsafe and unnecessary. FDA-approved drugs with compounds that are structurally related to components in marijuana have been available for over 30 years. New drugs containing compounds that are structurally related to the active components in marijuana, such as Epidiolex, may receive FDA approval in the future.

Therefore, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, I support prohibition of the cultivation, processing and distribution of medical marijuana in Bay Village pursuant to Ohio HB 523 Section 3796.29. If this Council will not support a prohibition, I would support a moratorium until medical marijuana is approved by the FDA so that we can be assured that it is safe and effective since, currently, the FDA concludes that it is not.

Thank you,



Tom Henderson
Ward 4 Representative, City of Bay Village City Council