A COMMUNITY PLANNING COMPASS
for Youth Health & Safety
WHERE WOULD MARIJUANA FIT IN?

NEIGHBORHOODS

SCHOOLS

PUBLIC SAFETY

HEALTHCARE

ENVIRONMENT

BUSINESSES
HOW MIGHT YOUR COMMUNITY CHANGE?

PUBLIC SAFETY
- Law enforcement: Increased calls for service, black and gray markets, illegal growth, cash business crimes, armed robberies, BHO labs, DUIs.
- Criminal Justice: Rise in drug-related crimes, jocks and dealers impacted, progression to more serious drugs.
- Fire and EMS: Greater service demands.
- Local legislation: Conflicts with federal or state and interagency laws and regulations.
- City Hall: Code enforcement, citizen complaints, permitting processes, signage, cash accounting.

NEIGHBORHOODS
- Backyard grows: Visible crops, odor pollution, risk to property safety and value.
- In-home cultivation: Odors, utility misuse, fire hazards, illegal sales.
- BHO production: Homemade hash oil carries extreme fire and explosion danger, child endangerment.
- At home: Child access, deliveries, social and mainstream media messaging, social host violations.
- Security risks: Greater youth availability, vandalism and theft, increased violence.

ENVIRONMENT
- National forests, outdoor illegal cultivation: Soil and water degraded by chemicals and waste, large-scale clear-cut damage, loss of habitat, wildlife death, fire danger, armed guards.
- Agriculture: Water quality and quantity, pesticides, runoff, security.
- Outdoor events, music, fairs, etc.: Law enforcement & security, substance abuse, overdoses, impaired driving, visible marketing and promotion.
- Water & air: Pollution, water diversion, trash, pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides.

SCHOOLS
- Students: Increased youth access and campus use, diminished performance and behavior.
- Forms of use: Smoking, vaping, edibles.
- Health curriculum expansion.
- THC policies for teachers, nurses & staff.
- Parent requests for student medical marijuana.
- Impaired driving on and near campus.
- Extra SRO demands and police calls for service.

BUSINESSES
- Retail outlets: Dispensaries, specialty stores, convenience stores, pharmacies, farmers markets, grocery stores, delivery services.
- Cannabis tourism: Tours, lodging, events.
- Incompatible adjacent uses.
- Security risks.
- Marketing & media: Signage, lighting, vehicle signage, billboards, packaging, corporate marketing.

HEALTHCARE
- Doctors & providers: Patients with valuation, THC level, drug interactions, medical marijuana requests, addiction counseling.
- Medical marijuana, regulating caregivers, monitoring access, managing patient card systems.
- Behavioral health: Increased treatment services, mental health and substance use disorders, DUI programs, Prevention outreach and education.
- Public health: Marijuana & pregnancy, medical marijuana & children and edibles.
- Individuals & families: Intrastate drug abuse, mental health impacts, behavioral and memory impacts, youth brain development.

PUBLIC SAFETY
- Large-scale indoor cultivation: Lack of warehouse availability for other businesses, ventilation, odors, waste disposal, utility misuse.

SCHOOLS
- Urgent care & hospitals: Child poisonings, unintentional overdoses, DUI crashes, toxic drug interactions.

BUSINESSES
- Retail outlets near schools in unbuffered zones.

HEALTHCARE
- In 2011 marijuana was involved in 455,668 ED visits nationwide (DAWN).

PUBLIC SAFETY
- Teens’ risk of crashing is doubled after using marijuana.

ENVIRONMENT
- National forests, outdoor illegal cultivation: Soil and water degraded by chemicals and waste, large-scale clear-cut damage, loss of habitat, wildlife death, fire danger, armed guards.
- Each marijuana plant uses 5 gallons of water per day.

SCHOOLS
- Teens who view marijuana advertising are twice as likely to use the drug.
**LOCAL RESOURCES (ENGLISH & SPANISH)**

Friday Night Live Partnership
Mentoring and empowering Ventura County youth to build healthy communities: fnlvc.com

How High Ventura County
Interactive tips for parents and adults on engaging teens in discussions about marijuana: howhighventuracounty.org

Project SAFER
Impaired driving prevention, safe event planning and community assessments: projectsafer.org

Straight Up Ventura County
Youth projects promoting social change regarding marijuana misuse, including “Reality Parties” for parents: straightupvc.org

Ventura County Limits
Local resources for reducing and preventing substance abuse problems in our community: venturacountylimits.org/mj (English), venturacountylimits.org/mjs (Spanish)

**MAPPING MARIJUANA IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

Regardless of possible changes in the legal status of medical or nonmedical marijuana, cities and counties are in the position of trying to balance related policy issues with community safety and the needs of their constituents.

**A CHECKLIST FOR POLICYMAKERS**

- Review existing policies that might be strengthened to help prevent marijuana youth access and availability. Example: Social Host Ordinance.
- Establish a baseline of local marijuana data to monitor and evaluate its effects over time.
- Collaborate with key stakeholders in your community to determine multiagency impacts and recommended strategies.
- Study model ordinances, successful policies and promising practices of other cities, counties and states.
- Coordinate policy efforts with other municipalities.
- Organize community meetings to develop an understanding of citizens’ interests and concerns about marijuana.
- For more information: venturacountylimits.org/marijuana

State of California Medical Marijuana Program:
www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/MMP/Pages/default.aspx