

Dennis Slota

9/22/20

To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

Subject: BOS 9-22-20 Meeting, Public Comment, Enforcement of County Cannabis Ordinance

Dear Chair Haschak and Board members,

Speaking on behalf of friends and neighbors, we are seeking transparency and accountability in Cannabis Code Enforcement reporting. Attached is a view of the Cannabis Code Enforcement webpage and a related newspaper article. The Cannabis Enforcement webpage shows seven complaints for 2018, one complaint for 2019 and an annual summary for 2018. We request that the website be updated.

We are aware of Humboldt growers moving to Mendocino County because Mendocino County does not enforce its Cannabis Ordinance. Humboldt County uses **active enforcement** based on evaluation of google images, followed up with field inspection. Humboldt County cannabis enforcement brought in \$4,707,086* in less than three years, to the County from enforcement actions. This amount paid the enforcement costs, injected money into the general fund, benefitted the environment, and aides legal growers.

The contrast with Mendocino County's lack of enforcement of a **complaint-based** system is striking and fiscally irresponsible. Many citizens decline to complain about a cannabis neighbor due to fear of retaliation. A majority of these complaints could be identified by active enforcement. It should not be the citizens obligation to enforce the law. Adopting Humboldt county's active enforcement model, protects citizens from grower retaliation, adds protection to valuable north coast environmental resources and promotes legal growers.

Until Mendocino County moves into an active enforcement model, we request updating the Mendocino County Cannabis Ordinance Enforcement webpage with full information. We are seeking a transparent system in which a complaint is received, time stamped, assigned a number, categorized by nature of complaint, assigned a specific staff person, with the complaint status posted on-line. In this way a complainant can follow the status of their complaint on-line. We request a quarterly report also be posted on-line. These reports will provide the basis for an annual summary report. We also request this Annual Report be a Board Agenda item, so the public can review and attend a hearing on Cannabis Code Enforcement activities.

Having Mendocino County serve as a magnet and haven for lawbreaking growers from enforcement counties will further diminish our natural resources and continue to degrade the quality of life for residents. Clearly this County is in no position to increase the number of growers until the active enforcement model is adopted and initiated.

We are happy to participate in the processes needed to advance to the fiscally prudent active cannabis enforcement model. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,
Dennis Slota