



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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JOHN LEOPOLD
FIRST DISTRICT

ZACH FRIEND
SECOND DISTRICT

RYAN COONERTY
THIRD DISTRICT

GREG CAPUT
FOURTH DISTRICT

BRUCE MCPHERSON
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 6/23/15

June 18, 2015

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: CANNABIS CULTIVATION CHOICES COMMITTEE

Dear Members of the Board:

Over the last three years, our Board has wrestled with developing effective and enforceable regulations regarding the cultivation of medical cannabis. Many ideas have been discussed and an ordinance was adopted in February 2014. After 11 months without adequate enforcement and as a result of the egregious actions of some commercial cultivators, the Board was forced to reconsider its regulations to address the impacts this ordinance created. In March 2015, the Board adopted a ban on the commercial cultivation of medical cannabis on a split vote.

Members of the cultivation community who felt this new ban was unfair used a tool provided in state law to seek sufficient signatures to repeal the March ordinance change or put the matter on the ballot. In May, this group submitted over 11,000 signatures calling on the Board to repeal the ordinance. The County Clerk has now certified the referendum petitions, and we expect that our Board will be further addressing this issue in August.

We think it is appropriate to consider revisiting our ordinance on commercial medical cannabis cultivation with the help of the community. The Board has heard hours of testimony and debated many policy choices as we considered our ordinance. In light of the referendum campaign, it may be time to ask key stakeholders to work together to fashion a policy framework for our Board to adopt in the future.

Therefore, we propose the formation of a committee to work on providing policy recommendations for consideration by our Board. This Cannabis Cultivation Choices Committee would be limited to a term of six months and would work with the goal of

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developing policy recommendations that reflect the key policy goals as articulated by our Board. Recommendations coming out of the work of the committee should protect our neighborhoods, protect our environment, and ensure that there is an adequate supply of medical cannabis for those who have a doctor's recommendation.

In order to ensure there is adequate representation of all voices in this discussion, we propose that the committee include 13 members, as follows:

- Each Supervisor shall nominate one person who may reside within the Supervisor's district
- One member of the Association for Standardized Cannabis (ASC)
- One member of Responsible Cultivation for Santa Cruz (RCSC)
- One member of Santa Cruz Mountains Sensible Cultivation of Marijuana (SCM2)
- One member of the Cannabis Activists Alliance (CAA)
- One member of the Santa Cruz Veterans Alliance (SCVet)
- The remaining three members shall be at-large appointments

The at-large members should have knowledge of, or experience in, land use, neighborhood issues, environmental protection, or the medicinal value of cannabis. We further propose that this committee be fully transparent in its discussions and decision-making and should therefore follow the requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act. Lastly, this committee should be facilitated by a member of our community who has experience in agriculture policy, law, and government and, most importantly, has proven facilitation skills.

In order for this committee to be successful, it will require all members to bear the aforementioned policy goals in mind and be prepared to collaborate and compromise where necessary in order to develop a set of recommendations that can garner the broadest support possible. Our Board has honestly and forthrightly attempted to craft a successful policy. Now we turn to the community for their experience and expertise to propose solutions to this complex issue.

Therefore, we recommend that the Board take the following actions:

1. Adopt the attached resolution establishing the Cannabis Cultivation Choices Committee.
2. Request that members of the Board submit nominations for representatives of each Supervisorial district to be appointed to the Cannabis Cultivation Choices Committee at the Board's meeting of August 4, 2015.
3. Accept this letter as notification of three at-large vacancies on the Cannabis Cultivation Choices Committee, with nominations for appointment to be received on August 4, 2015, and final appointments to be considered on August 18, 2015.

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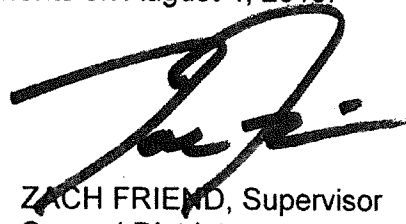
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4. Direct the Chairman of the Board to request that representatives of the Association for Standardized Cannabis, Responsible Cultivation for Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz Mountains Sensible Cultivation of Marijuana, the Cannabis Activists Alliance, and the Santa Cruz Veterans Alliance submit letters to the Chairman, on agency letterhead, on or before July 10, 2015, recommending the appointment of a representative of each agency to serve on the Committee. This will allow the Board to consider these appointments on August 4, 2015.

Sincerely,



JOHN LEOPOLD, Supervisor
First District



ZACH FRIEND, Supervisor
Second District

JL/ZF:ted
Attachment

cc: Association for Standardized Cannabis
Responsible Cultivation for Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz Mountains Sensible Cultivation of Marijuana
Cannabis Activists Alliance
Santa Cruz Veterans Alliance
County Administrative Office

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