

Chris Taggart

From: Mike & Jess Ellis <mikejessellis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 1:07 PM
To: Ravalli County Commissioners Office
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Marijuana Signage

Dear Sirs,

I am writing because I am concerned about the way marijuana is being advertised in our county. I live in Corvallis and last May, we moved our business from the RCEDA Business Center to the Victor Business Park. Since that time, two businesses along my drive to work, Apogee Gardens and Heirloom Remedies, have put up large banners reading "MARIJUANA." I am wondering if there are any county ordinances preventing this type of advertising or if the county has any plans to limit this type of advertising.

My primary concern comes from being the parent of two young boys, both at impressionable ages. We do not allow for other controlled substances (tobacco, alcohol, gambling, etc) to be advertised in a way that is so blatant. We know this type of advertising has a negative impact on children and it is my hope that as a community we would choose to put their health and well being first.

My second concern is as a business owner. Like many local companies, we are in a difficult hiring climate and our business is contractually required to maintain a drug free work place. The purpose of advertising is to build a larger customer base. As an employer, I would argue that we do not need more drug use in our workforce. We live in a state with high Workers Compensation rates as it is and hiring is already difficult. Why would we allow advertising to recruit marijuana use? This will only exacerbate the issues employers are already dealing with.

Given the drug abuse problems we see in Montana, it seems that limiting advertising in our communities is just common sense. I look forward to learning more about how Ravalli County is approaching the issue.

Thank you for your time,
Jessie Ellis

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