

Jefferson County Marijuana Task Force

May 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Jeanie Rossillon called the meeting to order.

The April 28, 2014 meeting minutes were approved.

After a discussion and vote, Ramey Johnson was elected chair of the task force.

Jeanie noted that she has voice and e-mails of comments made at the April 21, 2014 telephone town hall hosted by the Board of County Commissioners and other elected officials. Task force members were asked to let Jeanie know if they wanted copies.

Jeanie and task force member, Jordan Wellington, had a conference call with Commissioner Casey Tighe. Jeanie shared some further thoughts from Commissioner Tighe as a result at that call –he would like to see some data on the “nuts and bolts” of impacts of retail sales, such as how much revenue could be realized and what are the impacts to other tenants if a retail store opens in an area.

The task force then discussed pros and cons of retail sales. Brian Richardson shared the results of his discussion with District Attorneys in the counties surrounding Jefferson County. Brian concluded, that in general, the attorneys had little data to share or were not able to help Brian with his survey. Brian also presented a map of Jefferson County showing the incorporated areas and an indication of whether or not the municipalities allowed marijuana establishments.

Jeanie shared the start of a spreadsheet that listed some potential impacts of allowing retail sales in unincorporated Jefferson County. The task force added a number of impacts. Jeanie will update the spreadsheet before the next meeting and asked members to add other impacts and to provide studies or links to studies that either support or refute the potential impacts. Several of the task force members brought studies that were shared with the group. Jordan pointed out that some studies seem to show a correlation between marijuana use and some perceived impacts, but the studies do not always establish whether or not marijuana is causal in the impact or if there are other factors that may be affecting the impact.

There was a brief discussion of the question: What would it take to Change My Position?

Nate Emswiller shared a summary of taxing authority provided by the Colorado Department of Revenue. Jeanie mentioned that the County has two sales taxes in place now. One is a half cent for Open Space, which is collected countywide, including incorporated areas. The other is one half cent for roadway improvements in southeast Jeffco (generally south of US285 and east of the hogback). These sales taxes would apply to retail sales, but the revenues are not available for any uses other than open space purposes and voter approved roadway improvements. None of the revenue from the 15% excise tax collected by the state is directly available to Jefferson County. On the other hand, 15% of the 10% state sales tax revenue would be available to Jefferson County if the County were to allow retail sales. Jordan pointed out that there are other revenue sources available, such as operating fees to cover the

operating costs to the County. Fees for service and permits are other options. Jeanie requested that the task force try to come up with a range of revenue that might be available for Jefferson County.

Brian said that tours of a dispensary and/or grow house could be arranged. He suggested that Erin Logan might be able to help with that effort. Jordan mentioned that he could also arrange for infused product and testing facility tours.

There was a suggestion that Jeffco school resource officers might be contacted for information about trends in the schools. There was also further discussion about the value of the task force.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 9, 2014 in the Lookout Mountain Room from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned.

Attendees: Patricia Woodin, Charles Tingle, Dr, Mark Johnson, Donna Viverette, John Wolforth, Mike Chadwick, Nate Emswiler, Eric Butler, Robert Cantwell, Thomas Gorman, Ramey Johnson, Ronn Nixon, Brian Richardson, Jordan Wellington, Jeanie Rossillon.