

CANNABIS ORDINANCE AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE  
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WORKSHOP  
RAMONA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP  
**Meeting shall be a Zoom Meeting held at 6:00 P.M**  
<https://zoom.us/j/6969450019?pwd=VkM2d2FmeTlaSE54aWVQd0Roc2oxQT09>  
Dial In Numbers: (669) 900-6833 or (346) 248-7799  
Meeting ID: 696 945 0019  
Passcode: 9YPsyb

May 18, 2021

FINAL Meeting Minutes

**A Temporary email address has been created to request agenda item information via email.**

Please send an email to: [rcpgcovid19meetinginfo@gmail.com](mailto:rcpgcovid19meetinginfo@gmail.com) to request documents for each item to follow along with during the teleconference.

Requests for documents will be responded to before and during the meeting as possible to accommodate any member of the public wishing to participate during the meeting.

Members of the public are requested to make a speaker request via email prior to the meeting as well. This request is to ensure everyone is heard and has an equal opportunity to speak during the meeting as well as providing the RCPG a chance to organize our speakers ahead of the meeting to ensure we have ample time for each item. Please indicate if you are speaking as PUBLIC COMMUNICATION or as an AGENDA ITEM and note the agenda item you wish to respond to and please limit your written response to 3 minutes or less.

Written comments to be read into the record will also be accepted via email prior to the meeting. Please indicate the item number you wish to respond to and please limit your written response to 3 minutes or less.

1. CALL TO ORDER - Casey Lynch called meeting to order at 6:05pm
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – led by Jim Piva
3. DETERMINATION OF MEMBERS PRESENT – Maria Arroyo, Lynn Hopewell, Casey Lynch, Robin Joy Maxson, Jim Piva, Michelle Rains, and David Ross  
Absent: Eb Hogervorst
4. ANNOUNCEMENTS - None
5. PRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS ONLY – None  
Kathleen (Kathy) Lippitt spoke regarding Board of Supervisors meeting held today, May 18, 2021. They asked for feedback on the proposed ordinance. It's difficult to do as the county hasn't provided information needed for groups to make informed decisions. The framework appears to be between the industry and politically elected officials. Nathan Fletcher has worked with a long-time supporter for Cannibis. Apparently, the proposed ordinance was done in January. It's not following science but the money. When the County talks about mental health they talked about that and downing. She spoke to when a mother due to consumption of narcotics fell asleep and her children drowned in a pool. Asked for cost benefit analysis, experts that can speak to both sides, visit dispensaries, and

centers that have patients that are addicted to cannabis. Borrego Springs had a large group of experts that attended their planning group meeting.

6. ACTION ITEM:

- A. The Board of Supervisors is requesting input regarding upcoming changes to the cannabis ordinance that will include the sale of ingestible cannabis products and allow onsite consumption of cannabis products at marijuana dispensaries.

Consideration is also being given to the creation of jobs in farming and manufacturing, testing and retail sales of cannabis products and the opportunity to advance social equity.

This item will be an open forum, lead by the Chair. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee will give allow time for each participant to provide input on the proposed revisions to the current County of San Diego Ordinance and allow time for the public to receive comments from the current dispensary owners and operators.

Casey Lynch broke out what was provided by the County on what they're requesting. Jim Piva gave a shout out to Tony Cioe and Ren Bowden from four years ago. Had a good repour with cannabis business owners and we need to hear from them as well. Tony and Ren were honest with us years ago and would like to continue to have a positive relationship with them. Casey said we want to hear from both Tony and Ren. Go through what the County gave the Planning Group to go through. The County is throwing at us the social equity part of this. Didn't have this the last time this was negotiated. Casey took what the County put before us as far as ideas and purposes. These are what the planning group needs to discuss. Tackle each one of the items and get Tony and Ren's input. The Ad Hoc Committee will meet one more time and pull this information together to send to the County. Maria Arroyo mentioned a bit about her background. She was a career prosecutor. She handled a lot of marijuana cases. The laws have been changed for a while now. The rule for California people is that marijuana is legalized and the businesses following the law and doing it the right way are to be supported. There's still a major illegal element in the marijuana factor. That we recognize that the laws for marijuana have changed. Casey said it is the law that is governing this ordinance and it's what we need to tackle as a community. How we want it to be in Ramona. The current businesses are in the sunset law, but what they had didn't follow state law. Believes the new Board of Supervisors are working to have a better ordinance regarding the sale of cannabis. Want to continue to drive the bus and be proactive on this ordinance.

**Retail in areas zoned commercial and industrial.**

Casey Lynch shared that the ordinance limits it to industrial zoned areas. The proposed ordinance opens it up to more commercial properties, closer to Main St. Ren Bowden shared that they have tried to get their rights back. Not looking for a large, expanded ordinance. Just looking to get their rights back. He isn't for some of the expansion that they're talking about. For commercial areas doesn't think it needs to be in a Main St. atmosphere. This doesn't need to be in front of everyone's face. It needs to be discreet and accessible. Doesn't need to be near an ice cream shop, it would than make it easier to obtain for teens. Sees no benefit moving them to Main St. Thinks the discreet area is like where they are currently is enough. As a community member would push back on having it in high profile commercial zones. Maria Arroyo asked if he spoke for other businesses? Ren said no he isn't speaking for them. To his knowledge there is no ordinance that's been written. There is a front runner group called the "stakeholders' group", they are the social equity group. His understanding on this ordinance is everything is in it. It's consumption lounges, outdoor growing, etc. It's not something he supports. Realizes every community is different. Every owner in the County is going to be excluded from anything moving

forward as they don't fit in what's in the ordinance. They currently are working from what would become an obsolete location. Besides customer service what will get customers to go off the beaten path. Casey said the sentiment he got from public goes in line with what Ren said. Keep it off Main St. The character of Ramona is a western/equestrian style community. How do we feel about the billboard situation? Someone said it's almost like they're on Main St. due to the billboard. Casey want's feedback. Ren with billboard situation see them on all throughfare freeways. The state has stringent guidelines for billboards. Businesses don't think billboards are that effective as an advertising method. Agrees with California that we don't need cartoons/marijuana leaves. Tony Cio said his billboard that's on Hwy 67 is coming off next month. Was a business decision as the money they spent on advertising helps them. Casey asked if he would support a billboard ban? Tony said yes, he thinks so. Maria not sure how you'd get around the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment rights. Ren said there are other ordinances where there's age limits wouldn't the cannabis billboard come under that as well? Casey said some of the billboards are pushing the allowable limits. Robin Joy Maxson said if we're commenting about this it'd be something to bring to the County's attention. Jim Piva shared that for those that don't know Ren and Tony want to be a part of the community. They don't want to put it in our face. They want to be good businesses in our community. Hopefully, people see now that we could come up with something for the Board of Supervisors that will help sway them. Robin said this is something for the future as there won't always be responsible owners like Ren and Tony. Jim Piva said let's make it fair and right. Have opportunity to sway Board of Supervisors to do the right thing. Becky Rapp spoke about the billboard situation. So, the state of CA did ban all billboards on the interstate which would include Hwy 67. There is a glaring billboard going into Ramona. So it is actually a law that was put into place banning billboards on freeways, due to minors driving and being influenced by the billboard. Cities are taking the next step by banning around their communities and streets. City of San Diego taking it another step and wanting them removed from their communities. With billboards there's an opening that lets us say we want a ban on billboards. A question to the businesses is regarding consumption on premises, concerning as it would create more traffic? Casey said it'll be part of future discussion. Casey is putting information on billboards and putting it on enforcement. The Relief billboard is illegal. Kathy Lippet wants to point out that a number of billboards push the envelope as they push the use of marijuana. They're also not to put any information regarding health and they are to be associated with a permitted establishment. They were given 30 days to take them down. Appreciates owners that plan on removing his. They are a message to young people that it's an activity that's ok to be associated with. Casey will bring it back to zoning. Casey is for keeping it off Main St. He's a Main St. property owner as well and Main St. needs to keep its character and keep it to the businesses we currently have. Any expansion needs to be industrial zones. Jim said we have three licensed dispensaries that have made the very expensive investment on properties and buildings. And they have a right to have a return on their investment. He'd like to see the three companies in Ramona be able to make money on their business. Doesn't want to see any other businesses coming into Ramona. Keep it like it currently is. Believes other dispensaries would support that idea. It's important to get other dispensaries to support what we're trying to do and keep it off Main St. Which would send a loud message to the Board of Supervisors. Scotty Ensign said speaking of Main St. we have signage and commercial zoning. Is there anything down the pike about paraphernalia on Main St. Casey doesn't think it's part of the ordinance and asked owners if they carry. Ren Bowden said they carry some items, glass wear, etc. Thinks what Scotty is talking about is right. Right now, they're carrying Delta 8 which is a huge loop hole as they only talk about Delta 9 which creates euphoric condition. But consuming a lot of Delta 8 will create the same euphoria. Casey said what we're coming against is the buy right use. Don't think they got licensing. Scotty asked do they have everything to do with marijuana use, except the product. Ren that's carried in his store, so they don't need to go anywhere. Michelle Rains asked do we want to have a cap on number of businesses, is there already a cap? Casey under the original ordinance we were to have five businesses based on

available properties, of the five, three were built. If we keep what we have two more could be added. Michelle is there a comment as to whether they want more/less. Casey said that it stays in the allowable zones. Robin Joy Maxson said Jim Piva was talking about return of investment. We could grandfather in the three facilities, we could say only three in Ramona. Since we're crafting this for Ramona and any future businesses, we need to be in the zones indicated. Casey said that he thinks under current ordinance we can have five businesses. Also, under the current ordinance doesn't allow manufacturing. We have three dispensaries and then make options in other areas. Ren shared that the City of San Diego said max of four per district with a lot of caveats. There were multiple districts that didn't get their four. That's how a lot of areas have done it to keep the number down. The proponents for this are hoping to be able to come in. The thing that is most effective some working that says three per community / square footage, per citizen in the community. All effective ways to handle this. Whatever we do. Rob Lewallen asked owners are you adequately serving the community, do you have long lines, dead time, this is all within boundaries is enough or too many. Ren said they're more than adequately serving the local community. They get very few customers off the hill. About 95% of the people, they serve are community members. They have down time. Thinks with three they're decently serving the community. Greg McCluskey agrees with Ren, there is down time and believes three dispensaries is enough for Ramona. Until people realize the medical value and non-psychoactive element. Casey likes the per capita number. Explore the per capita ratio. Scotty what's our pop 35,000. Casey not counting the Estates about right. Rob believes we're pushing 55,000. Scotty thinks the 15,000 number is a good area. Robin if this is a countywide, we have three in our area, 1 per 15,000 people. Casey thinks that would go over well for Ramona. It would provide a manageable pace. Lynn Hopewell said she'd want to go with just three as five would make it too accessible. Judi Strang was around when the ordinance went into play five years ago. What determined the number was the sensitive use designation so that's how we arrived at three. At the time the ordinance was adopted there were other businesses, that by right that is the cost of doing business, as you know that things can go south. Robin it's not by right, but grandfathered in. Jim didn't say they had the right, but they survived the moratorium that had been put into place. What we're saying is we want to work with these three owners, they want to work with our community. We have the opportunity to make some headway to benefit the community.

#### **Cultivation in areas zoned for agriculture.**

Casey Lynch said the majority of Ramona is zoned agriculture. So, we're targeted a little bit. What do we want it to look like? In other areas the manufacturing is done indoors. The indoor growing facilities is important. There are environmental and quality issues. It being grown outdoors is probably not what we're talking about. Casey asked for comments from owners. Ren Bowden said his understanding is that the big push is from the farm bureau and they have been pretty outspoken. Suggested that's someone we should be engaged with as they're trying to get it pushed through. As far as growing outdoors only a couple counties allow that, they are Humboldt and Santa Barbara which have had problems. Any cultivation Ren has done is indoors. It's difficult to grow medical grade that must be highly tested by 3<sup>rd</sup> party laboratories. Any heavy metals that get in, they also have to be careful with water that's used. Any cultivation would be indoors using either a glass or plexi structure. Similar to a greenhouse, but these would be closed circuit and closed climate. That all air coming into the area is clean air. That's it pure from any toxins, bugs, etc. All air is run through filters as it goes outside the building. There are growers in Mira Mesa, and you don't smell anything on the outside. Ren would be all for making that the practice in a community. When they talk about outdoor cultivation it has to be an area that wouldn't have contaminants. Needs to be a close circuit type grow. Greg, seconds what Ren said. Palomar in Santa Isabel grows, and you can't smell anything until you enter the building. There are three good sized operations on the hill in Santa Isabel. Those facilities would be the same type of facilities they would do. Believes a tour could be done to see what it looks

like on the cultivation side. Maria Arroyo knows the social equity, is this a scenario that minorities or disadvantaged people could be involved in. Create a co-op that they could grow and sell. Ren that's a good idea but would need to talk to County regarding social equity. They need to be educated, not be discriminated against. The ideas are great, but there's so many difficulties that it'd be hard to put together. As a Ramona resident, in those scenarios how do you secure something like that. When dealing with a product like this there's no value. With this product it needs to be secured. Casey said he likes the comment. Rob Lewallen wants to report that the Design Review Board saw someone who came in proposing a huge building for growing across from Tony Cielo's place on the east side of road, our main objection was they had an incredible amount of heat pumps and the concern was the noise pollution. Not sure if it'd go in cultivation/commercial. Sound pollution came up in the Design Review Board meeting. There were 25/30 5-ton units. We decided that won't work. Casey brought up water availability. Scotty believes it's hydroponics. Casey any connection to a commercial water meter. If we're going to allow cultivation need to be aware of our water table. Doesn't think it's too much to ask that they be connected to local water district use. Public agency water availability. Scotty asked if theft or burglary been a problem in growing facilities? Ren said he hasn't had any problem. The City of San Diego hasn't had any break-ins in their grow facilities either. They are so nondescript and there is no signage. There are cameras that would catch a thief. Scotty so he could be located in an industrial area, it doesn't need to be out in the back country. Greg McCluskey said there's a large growing facility in Long Beach and if you don't know it was there, you wouldn't know. Michelle Rains asked could something be put in that it's not seen from the scenic corridor. Casey remembers that and it was right on the edge. Jim Piva said that would have been Tony. Becky Rapp commented on growing. Yes, it's been mentioned that water is recycled but there is an excessive amount of water that needs to be used, and an excessive amount of energy. It's an environmental as well as it affects wildlife. The sky is dark at night, the bright lights used would affect the sky. Shining far distances. Those are some things to consider. Greg said all were great points, want to be great community members, and they plan to use solar. They've looked at businesses up north and they are creating so much solar that they give back to the community. Greg's business is out by airport and there are strict rules, none of the lights can point up, all have to be pointed down. Doesn't believe Tony or Ren would have that problem. Ren there is no light pollution from the growing building. You don't see anything from the exterior. Regarding water, for every gallon of water used 80% expires and goes into atmosphere. They control that, out of the 80% they collect 100% of that and it goes back to the plants. Due to the indoor control growth. Casey thinks indoor growing is paramount to this ordinance. Ren what we're looking at is areas designated as agriculture so any noise pollution will not be impactful. Casey said as a community want to keep it out of the backcountry. If we focus on outdoor growing and being connected to a meter will limit backcountry settings as there's no public water past 3<sup>rd</sup>/Magnolia Street. Jim Piva shared that the water for Ramona is very expensive, and it's going to get worse before it gets better. Thinks Ren is onto something. Doesn't think farmers would be able to afford to grow outdoors. Just the economics would make indoor cultivation more affordable. Rob Lewallen shared a comment about lighting, as long as there's a county permit, all lighting has to comply with county rules regarding the dark sky policy.

#### **Manufacturing in areas zoned for industrial.**

Casey said this intrigues him the most and we may have the most opportunity. We don't have any industrial businesses. This potentially could make it, so Ramona is contributing back to the County. We should explore this one. Asked for owner's comments. Ren Bowden thinks they're in the right area for manufacturing when it comes to do extraction, solvents are used and CO2 methods. But there's strict rules regarding that and a safe room has to be used. An industrial area is where it should take place. Manufacturing there's a lot of opportunity but knows there's a lot of square footage in San Diego, so hopefully they'll do some controlled growth. There's

plenty of retailers in San Diego that could use what manufacturing use. Greg has been manufacturing since last year and have more opportunities and employees working in manufacturing than at the dispensary. In Ramona we're busting at the seams for manufacturing, they're having to turn away business as they don't have the space to service or store as it's being manufactured. Casey isn't wrong the industry could provide 50 jobs within the next 12 months. Even going into social equity most of his employees are diverse. Manufacturing is a big part of their goal. Casey said he's glad he touched on the social equity component. Not only on the mentorship side and providing opportunities, but about someone who wants to start a business in this industry. It's a huge expense. If we're going to provide someone the opportunity to lift themselves out of where they're at this might be a good way to go. If there's open permitted facilities, why aren't they cooped? Change ordinance so the sensitive uses regarding manufacturing. That it's strictly a manufacturing business. Maybe this is our opportunity to bring manufacturing to Ramona. Maria Arroyo agrees with Casey, thinks the County is set to do something with social equity and that might be a good place to put that. Lynn Hopewell asked about visiting the facility. Michelle Rains would also like to visit. Greg McCluskey said he'd like for us to visit. Kathleen Lippett had a question for Greg. Did she hear correctly that he only manufactures non-psychoactive product? Greg said they can't manufacture CBD they have to have THC. Kathleen said they can't make a profit without manufacturing at high THC product. He doesn't produce high THC products. Greg said yes, they produce both. Judi Strang we as parents are concerned about manufacturing or products as it's highly concentrated as it has a high addition rate. From industry newsletters the state is manufacturing 5-10 times more product than is consumed in California. Greg said when you read those articles that's including illegal. There's actually not enough product for customer use. Judi the reference wasn't to black market, just general production rate that end up beyond the borders of California. She's uncomfortable with shipping outside of area. Greg said it's illegal, and they would lose their licenses if they tried to sell product out of state. Becky Rapp mentioned vacant MPS in San Diego that they've been given CBD's but aren't manufacturing. Ren why aren't they manufacturing. It's very expensive, the properties have gone above the market price, the landlords gauge, licensing is pricey, they pay over \$50,000/year. The next level is strip bars, and their permit is \$1500/yr. In addition, they pay \$100,000/year, plus taxes, etc. Think many people don't know what their getting into and what the cost is. That's what you hear around social equity, you can get people into the business but it's costly, so they fail. Greg that's 100%, you look at other businesses. You see one restaurant full, and others are empty.

**Distribution in areas zoned for industrial** – lumped with previous.

### **Testing**

Casey knows they go through stringent testing. Ren Bowden shared that you can't own a testing lab if you own a business. Doesn't think we'd have a problem with testing in Ramona. Greg's product is tested in Irvine. Ren uses testing sites in San Diego. Casey didn't realize testing was that spread out. Michelle said allow it if it's allowable. Brings jobs to Ramona. Ren it's a highly skilled position, they have to have a PhD on staff. Most employees are from the biotech community. Would be a great business for Ramona to have since it's a large volume. Casey asked if Michelle wanted to keep it at a per capita level. Michelle said yes.

### **Microbusinesses**

Casey Lynch asked what our thoughts are, would we consider a microbusiness. Ren Bowden shared that a microbusiness is a retail business that does other business, manufacturing is included in that. Most concerned with limiting retail and cultivation. That would be the limitations to put on things, believe we've already talked about that. Parts we want to limit are cultivation and retail. Jim Piva said keep it to the three licensed dispensaries and allow them to have a microbusiness. Jennifer Ro the microbusiness doesn't need to be retail, it can be

cultivation, manufacturing (nonvolatile). Michelle was thinking it seems beneficial that they have the business in Ramona. That it would help them as a business. Is that what we're saying. Casey what they're saying is their business is already a microbusiness. Under the current ordinance, keeping the status quo. Robin Joy Maxson asked was there another term that comes up later in the document other than microbusiness. Or is it the same as the winery boutique. Greg you can only have up to 10,000 sq. ft. for manufacturing. You must have three of the four businesses going. Casey is that opposed to being just a dispensary. When they permitted, they did it under three of the four. Greg yes, they got the microbusiness license, and they have three of the four. Casey said it's different from the winery boutique. Robin later in the document will have boutiques. Casey if we want to revisit boutiques would need to go back to. Robin shared that the County talked about the size is allowable anywhere. Casey, think it was discussed in areas zoned for agriculture. Robin, this would be onsite consumption. Casey thinks onsite consumption will be at another line. Ren there's nothing like a business that falls outside the guidelines. Only consumption areas are San Francisco and Los Angeles. There's no direct comparison to boutique wineries. Casey is that also like in the state law. Ren yes, that's in the California state law. They can go below state law but not above. Jennifer as far as boutique/consumption lounge. She was under the assumption that it's a different license. Is that a separate thing? Is it like bring your own cannabis, or buy and consume? Ren the lounges he knows of in San Francisco and Los Angeles have additional special permitting and permit from areas where they are located. Just because you have other licenses, doesn't mean you qualify for consumption. There are some event companies that are getting the word out. Say you're having a "yoga" festival, there are permits that are issued but there's a ton of regulations regarding that. Would invite people interested in that to do more research. Jennifer would that include if someone owns a Bed & Breakfast, would that allow people to ingest on property. Ren anytime you're doing any commercial presentation. If you advertise it's a consumption friendly place. There's so many rules and regulations that they can't violate any of the area.

### **Permitting**

Cased shared that currently major use permits are required. Ren Bowden shared that all dispensaries in Ramona are under major use permits. Casey doesn't see why any facility should be involved in a major use permit. Ren for the new ordinance any expansion they're doing a complete environmental report, land planning is insisting on this. That's why it'll take two years to get the permit. This will allow for the social equity component to be more effective as it'll cut down on the cost. Ren they're going to do a complete EIR, so they don't have to go through a SQL. Casey thinks that will be problematic as it'll have to be done on properties that are authorized for those uses. It'll be limited to those areas of usage. Ren this is a discussion that is ongoing at land planning. Jennifer thinks it's call a programmatic EIR. She heard that from Alena Banidito. Casey thinks that SQL is a big deal and often challenged. If they're doing that kind of level so people can come in under that. It'll need different method. Scotty Ensign asked is this based on all new or retroactive to existing. Ren they're trying to figure out what to do with them. They were under a SQL exemption in the past. When you get into building larger buildings an environmental impact study will need to be done.

### **Retail / store front – Casey believes we've voiced our opinions.**

#### **Issuance of a labor peace agreement after 10<sup>th</sup> employee.**

Ren Bowden said the peace agreement is already in effect. State law requires them to have a signed agreement. Per Greg McCluskey for the state, it's 20. Casey asked what's it mean to them, what do they have to do to comply. Greg said they have to allow the employees the right to unionize or not and have a vote on it. If they are in a union then they have to negotiate with the union. Ren shared that unions have become heavily involved. Casey there's a union? Ren

believes unions are wanting to expand into the cannabis industry. Greg thinks it should stay at the state law level.

#### **Allow sale of ingestible cannabis.**

Ren Bowden wants to follow California rules and guidelines. Ingestible product is a smaller part of that. People that use the product use it as an ingestible as they don't want to smoke it or any other method. The one thing that the rest of the cannabis products are the most highly regulated, can't be more than 10mg /serving. Look at the rules and regulations. Products can't appeal to children, have cartoon characters, what they'll do to you, i.e. get you high. Greg shared that ingestible is the product most used by senior citizens that don't smoke. If you're in Ramona you can't get edibles here, you have to go to Miramar. Ramona dispensaries aren't able to deliver in Ramona. It's time for people in Ramona to be able to go to a dispensary in Ramona. Ren did a study, didn't find another area that had an ordinance that restricted dispensing. Only in San Diego is that the case. The new ordinance is going to follow the state rules. Casey thinks compliance with state law is the way to go.

#### **Allow for onsite consumption.**

Michelle Rains said as we do for alcohol consumption there needs to be a training program for staff that allows the consumption of cannabis. So, people serving the product can judge on level of toxicity, checking ID's. One of the other owners said they're consumption lounges in San Francisco and Los Angeles, is there training that they have that we could follow. Kathy Lippett wants to know if Casey has a framework for the regulatory rules. They're considerations a weaker, than what we're planning. Change 1,000 sf to 6,000 so they aren't close to schools, libraries. Could have an undue concentration, residential areas aren't protected. Robin Joy Maxson said with the onsite consumption we're not an urban area with service streets, walkable, we're in the country with high-speed highways. It's not as easy for out-of-town visitors to do what they'd do in the city. The design seems to have a more urban design to it. Not sure how you'd accommodate onsite consumption. Not sure how training would figure in with Ramona. Casey said until law enforcement has an immediate and effective way to measure impairment don't think on site consumption should be allowed as law enforcement hasn't got the tools. We don't walk into Rite-Aid and pop pills. We take the meds home and take as needed. Think it's a gateway to less than desirable individuals. Support businesses that do for medical purposes. Robin said as we design this document, we're doing a lot of planning around the established facilities. Maybe need 4<sup>th</sup> column that we have a way we need it to look if it goes beyond three dispensaries. Casey wants to get input on what County laid out. Greg doesn't want clientele consuming onsite. He wants them to get what they need and move on. Doesn't feel it's ideal for the business or image they want. Ren Bowden agrees with Greg, this isn't the right area for it. It's a different beast. It wouldn't be successful. It needs to be in a more metropolitan area. Greg not sure how they feel about 6,000 feet. How to weight the different parts of San Diego. Ren has only operated under the 1,000 feet. Distance has to be 1,000 feet from a residential zone. Supports that it needs to be 1,000 feet from any church, school, playground, etc. Greg agrees with what Ren says. Supports business being in appropriate areas. Kathy shared that information she provided came from City of San Diego and they have a framework that sites what the state does and what San Diego does. City of San Diego is trying to move to the state framework. Ren works with the state directly and has the information himself. Judi shared that American Heart Lunch and Cancer has weighed in heavily against them. It would be a dangerous thing to put all your apples in that basket for all those against it. Scotty Ensign asked who is backing on site consumption? Ren the people backing new ordinance are completely outside of them. They put together a stakeholder group. Not sure who all is pushing the consumption. Most counties don't allow consumption. There is one or two permits in Los Angeles and three or four in San Francisco. The road to getting there is difficult. This stakeholders' groups aren't a real stakeholder since the real stakeholder is the dispensary owners and community. Believes



supervisors will have some push back on that. Consumption lounges, there are so many against it. Scotty said he's not for consumption on site at all. Ren said it's outside of the reason they got into the business. They do believe there are medicinal benefits, and it helps the community. Becky Rapp said this would be a good question for Nathan Fletcher and Juan Vargas and this group or stakeholders are definitely heavy hitters within the San Diego community. Nathan Fletcher is listening to them, don't count it out as it would go through. National City just did an ordinance that would allow five consumption lounges.

## **Enforcement**

Casey asked how it's inspected, and what is the \$50,000 to law enforcement. Greg McCluskey said the sheriff have told them they'd rather not have to inspect them since there's been no problems. They're more concerned about the illegal operations, but don't have time or funds to chase that. Law enforcement hasn't found any problems. Would like enforcement to focus on illegal sales, bigger danger to youth as it's not regulated. Ren Bowden said they have a good repour with sheriff's department, they are good players. Inspect them quarterly. They inspect that their getting the product through approved vendors which will be going away with the new ordinance. Every gram that goes in or out of the dispensary is tracked through Metric. It assures that the product is coming from a legal market. What the sheriff is doing is redundant. Their time would be better spent with policing and getting rid of illegal operations. Greg said that everything has to be accounted for, even product that's thrown out. They have a meeting each week to make sure metric matches. Becky Rapp said the county is moving forward with this ordinance. If the legal market expands the illegal market will go away. That's not the case in Ramona since they have adequate product, but there's still illegal product. Greg said the higher you tax legal, the illegal can sell cheaper since they don't follow regulations and aren't taxed. Many people don't want to go into the computer system to show they have medical recommendation. Without medical recommendation you can't buy product so people will find a way to obtain illegally. Make it more affordable, limit taxing on it for legal businesses. Becky by bringing legal business to Ramona, it doesn't seem to impact illegal. Greg said it has impacted illegal since when anyone comes into their business, they educate the buyer why it's important to buy from a legal dispensary. Dave Ross said enforcement will always be an issue. Very skeptical about having legal weed in our community. It's his hope Ramona dispensaries are using it for medical use. He talked to sheriff's recently and they echo what the dispensary owners said. Enforcement has become a huge problem. Thinks if they get into the manufacturing aspect, the inspections will grow more as they have their own safety concerns. Like explosions, like what's done illegal. Also, with pesticides that are used. Would have to have more inspections if they're cultivating. Consumables glad to see we're leaning away from that. Law enforcement is also concerned about that as consumption can't be controlled. Likes direction we're going with this. Casey regarding enforcement, the licensing facility at cottage on Main St. It's not so much involving law enforcement but enforcement of the code itself. Didn't know what happened to the licensing facility on Main St. but believes enforcement action took its course. Greg that was a previous owner building. It actually went through zoning and Design Review Board and the signs weren't right on building there was no cannabis activity. Just for information and to sign up for medical use. Taken down since there was an ordinance regarding advertisement and it wasn't financially beneficial, so it was taken out. Michelle Rains said as far as enforcement and inspection. Who does the inspection? Ren said the sheriff department and BCC for retail component. Public Health Dept. and Dept. of Agriculture involved with Ren's business in San Diego. Dept of Agriculture is very involved and aware of rules. Jennifer has experience with license and cultivation in Kern County and they came out within weeks of opening. Kathleen why do we rarely hear what the concern about when there's too much. The state takes in a lot of taxes and the consumption increases. Understands if an eye doctor doesn't want to go to a dispensary where there is a record of. Ren there's a misunderstanding. Michelle what percent of annual income is used for the business. Greg said they use about 50% of what they earn for

licensing, etc. Doesn't get to deduct what normal businesses do. As time goes by, people will see what the medical benefit is for the consumer. Kathy Lippett said the young people will continue to obtain cannabis. Greg young people continue to do what they've done for years. Their job is to make it harder for them to obtain cannabis. Casey knows they do a lot of active enforcement. HIPAA laws make it so dispensaries can't divulge who has bought from them for medical use. Those with medical use pay a lower tax. Ren should be an adult use enforcement for 21 years and older. Casey is this something they want included. Ren we'll get push back from the medical community. If it were up to him, it'd be 21 years and older. Greg agreed with Ren. Jim Piva said that was a great thing that they came up with. That it could be taken advantage with the under 21 crowd. Lynn Hopewell asked how that would affect someone under 21 that needs to use. Greg said they'd need to go to medical doctor and get medical assistance from Dr. There's liability for them. A document has to be signed that they won't share or sell.

### **Social equity**

Question was asked about someone who had served a jail sentence. Greg McCluskey asked Ren Bowden if BCC allows someone to have a license. Ren said they have to be fingerprinted and any ownership interest, 10% or more. The FBI background won't allow anyone with a record to have a dispensary. Some of the things they want to do are unrealistic. As far as a lot of the things they're doing he supports. Wants dispensaries to allow internships for those interested in opening a dispensary. Support communities that have been disproportionately impacted. Unfortunately, it's people of color. One of the problems is they want to safely state that they've been in the cannabis industry and you have a business you're working in an illegal market. Becky agrees with Ren. Casey said follow BCC regulations that anyone with a felony can't operate a cannabis dispensary. Struggles with the disproportionately impacted areas. That it will impact our backcountry. Not sure how they'd be successful coming from a disproportionate area and coming to Ramona. Think the internship is a good idea. Providing them on the manufacturing side and being mentored by a current dispensary owner. Ren one more portion need to have some of the tax going into law enforcement and going back to communities hardest hit and going into education, job creation. There's a lot of beneficial programs that this would help. Greg at his site for education they're planning on a 3-day weekend cannabis workshop. Before you get into the business this is what you need, what it's going to cost, taxes, etc. The plan is to scholarship two people from the social equity program. Education is the key. Greg and Ren have minorities already working in the business. They already have diversity in Ramona which will help others pull themselves up. How to educate them so they can do it too.

7. Adjournment workshop adjourned at 9:00pm.