

From: [Lisa C. Kunz](#)
To: [Bob Kelly](#); [Eric Hinebauch](#); [Joe McKenney](#); [Rick Tryon](#); [Susan Wolff](#)
Cc: [Greg Doyon](#); [Charles Anderson](#); [Darcy Dea](#); [Krista Artis](#); [Jeffrey Hindoien](#); "rgraybill@silverstatelaw.net"
Subject: FW: Public Comments
Date: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 4:53:02 PM
Attachments: [Public Comment.Marijuana.04.19.22.pdf](#)
[marijuana-infoographic-risks-are-real.pdf](#)
[SAMHSA Marijuana.docx](#)

See comments from Carolyn Sluys.

Lisa

From: Lisa C. Kunz
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 4:50 PM
To: 'Carolyn Sluys' <lifeisgood4us@xmailpost.com>
Subject: RE: Public Comments

Hi Carolyn – I will provide your comments and attachments to the Commission and appropriate staff. However, the comments pertain to the meeting currently in session and may not be considered prior to Commission action.

With regard to the email not being received until 4:37 pm, the IT department confirmed the City received the e-mail at 16:27:31, and can't troubleshoot whether your ISP or mail server was experiencing any issues or delays.

Best regards,

Lisa Kunz

City Clerk/Records Manager
Civic Center Room 204
406.455.8451

From: Carolyn Sluys <lifeisgood4us@xmailpost.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 4:37 PM
To: Lisa C. Kunz <kunz@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: FW: Public Comments

From: Carolyn Sluys <lifeisgood4us@xmailpost.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 10:16 AM
To: 'commission@greatfallsmt.net.' <commission@greatfallsmt.net>
Subject: Public Comments

Please provide to commissioners for tonight's meeting.

Thank you!

Carolyn Sluys
101 14th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405

Carolyn K. Sluys
101 14th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405

April 19, 2022

**PUBLIC COMMENT
GREAT FALLS CITY COMMISSION**

**TO: Mayor Kelly
Commissioners Susan Wolff, Eric Hinebauch, Joe McKenney, Rick Tryon**

RE: SAY NO TO MARIJUANA WITHIN CITY LIMITS

I have concerns that if we allow non-essential recreational drugs within city limits we will be perpetrating a great disservice to our community.

Information from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) reveal that marijuana use is increasing in both youth and adults, while the perception of how harmful marijuana use can be is declining. Today's marijuana is also much stronger than ever before.

Some of the long-term effects include permanent IQ loss, depression, anxiety, suicide, psychotic episodes, slower reactions, fetal growth restriction and problems with brain development. Additionally, people who drive under the influence of marijuana can experience decreased coordination and difficulty reacting to signals and sounds while driving.

The community often bears the financial burden of mental health, medical and social costs. Please keep recreational marijuana outside the city limits.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,

Carolyn K. Sluys

Attachment: SAMSHA Marijuana Risks

MARIJUANA

THE RISKS ARE REAL

Using marijuana carries real risks for your health and quality of life. Some might be surprising to you. So know the risks — learn before you burn, eat, or use.

Today's marijuana is stronger.

Today's marijuana has more than **3 times** the concentration of THC than marijuana from 25 years ago. More THC — the mind-altering chemical in marijuana — may lead to an increase in dependency and addiction.



Risk of addiction.

About **1 in 10** people who use marijuana may become addicted to marijuana — and **1 in 6** when use begins before age 18.

Lowers brain power.

Marijuana affects your brain development. Use by adolescents has been linked to a decline in IQ scores — up to 8 points! Those are points you don't get back, even if you stop using.



Impairs your memory.



Using marijuana can affect your memory, learning, concentration, and attention. Other effects include difficulty with thinking and problem solving.

Affects your performance.



Using marijuana can lead to worse educational outcomes. Compared with teens who don't use, students who use marijuana are more likely not to finish high school or get a college degree.

Can harm your baby.



Using marijuana when you're pregnant can affect your baby's development. It's linked to lower birth weight, preterm birth and stillbirth, increased risk of brain and behavioral problems.

Driving danger.

People who drive under the influence of marijuana can experience dangerous effects: slower reactions, lane weaving, decreased coordination, and difficulty reacting to signals and sounds on the road.



Marijuana use comes with real risks. Learn more at [SAMHSA.gov/marijuana](https://www.samhsa.gov/marijuana)

If you or someone you know needs help with a substance use disorder, including marijuana, call SAMHSA's National Helpline at 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or TTY: 1-800-487-4889, or use SAMHSA's Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator at [SAMHSA.gov](https://www.samhsa.gov) to get help.

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

SAMHSA

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



Know the Risks of Marijuana

Marijuana use comes with real risks that can impact a person's health and life.

- Marijuana is the most commonly used illegal substance in the U.S. and its use is growing. Marijuana use among all adult age groups, both sexes, and pregnant women is going up. At the same time, the perception of how harmful marijuana use can be is declining. Increasingly, young people today do not consider marijuana use a risky behavior.

But there are real risks for people who use marijuana, especially youth and young adults, and women who are pregnant or nursing. Today's marijuana is stronger than ever before. People can and do become addicted to marijuana.

Approximately 1 in 10 people who use marijuana will become addicted. When they start before age 18, the rate of addiction rises to 1 in 6.

Marijuana Risks

Marijuana use can have negative and long-term effects:



Brain health: Marijuana can cause permanent IQ loss of as much as 8 points when people start using it at a young age. These IQ points do not come back, even after quitting marijuana.



Mental health: Studies link marijuana use to depression, anxiety, suicide planning, and psychotic episodes. It is not known, however, if marijuana use is the cause of these conditions.



Athletic Performance: Research shows that marijuana affects timing, movement, and coordination, which can harm athletic performance.



Driving: People who drive under the influence of marijuana can experience dangerous effects: slower reactions, lane weaving, decreased coordination, and difficulty reacting to signals and sounds on the road.



Baby's health and development: [Marijuana use during pregnancy](#) may cause fetal growth restriction, premature birth, stillbirth, and problems with brain development, resulting in hyperactivity and poor cognitive function. Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and other chemicals from marijuana can also be passed from a mother to her baby through breast milk, further impacting a child's healthy development.



Daily life: Using marijuana can affect performance and how well people do in life. Research shows that people who use marijuana are more likely to have relationship problems, worse educational outcomes, lower career achievement, and reduced life satisfaction.

• Marijuana and Pregnancy



Marijuana use during pregnancy can be harmful to a baby's health and cause many serious problems including poor cognitive function, growth restriction and problems with brain development.



RISKS

ARE REAL

Marijuana Addiction

Contrary to popular belief, marijuana is addictive. Research shows that:

- 1-in-6 people who start using the drug before the age of 18 can become addicted.
- 1-in-10 adults who use the drug can become addicted.

Over the past few decades, the amount of THC in marijuana has steadily climbed; today's marijuana has three times the concentration of THC compared to 25 years ago. The higher the THC amount, the stronger the effects on the brain—likely contributing to increased rates of marijuana-related emergency room visits. While there is no research yet on how higher potency affects the long-term risks of marijuana use, more THC is likely to lead to higher rates of dependency and addiction.

About Marijuana

Marijuana refers to the dried leaves, flowers, stems, and seeds from the *Cannabis sativa* or *Cannabis indica* plant. Marijuana is a psychoactive drug that contains close to 500 chemicals, including THC, a mind-altering compound that causes harmful health effects.

People smoke marijuana in hand-rolled cigarettes, in pipes or water pipes, in blunts, and by using vaporizers that pull THC from the marijuana. Marijuana can also be mixed in food (edibles), such as brownies, cookies, and candy, or brewed as a tea. People also smoke or eat different forms of marijuana extracts, which deliver a large amount of THC and can be potentially more dangerous.

Rise of Marijuana Use

Today, marijuana use is on the rise among all adult age groups, both sexes, and pregnant women. People ages 18-25 have the highest rate of use.

Marijuana and THC remain illegal at the federal level, even though many states have legalized its use. In states where legal, marijuana is a fast-growing industry with sales to individuals over 21 in retail stores, wineries, breweries, coffee shops, dispensaries, online, as well as grown at home.