

City Great Falls Commission Meeting, 8/5/2025

Mayor, Commissioners and City Staff,

Ron Paulick, 708 56th St So.

Let me make something very clear. I am not opposed to recreational use of marijuana. The citizens of Great Falls voted to allow its use. I respect their decision.

I also realize Light Industrial 1 & 2 zoning codes are designated for various marijuana businesses. However, the ultimate decision to allow or not allow these businesses is in your trusted hands.

Nonetheless, I am totally opposed to allowing this CUP to move forward for the following reasons:

1. I was informed by a MT DOR Cannabis regulation employee that no city can regulate marijuana potency. They can only set zoning requirements for marijuana businesses. This state control is unacceptable, and you should demand local state legislators correct this flaw.
2. Our public safety guards, police and fire, are underfunded, understaffed and most likely have no ability to enforce any, if there are even any, laws that violate marijuana production, consumption or distribution. This situation is very likely the same for our municipal courts. Please correct these flaws before loading city departments with more work.
3. Our City Health Department and local mental health and substance abuse businesses are strapped by other drug and health issues that it becomes uncalled for to allow marijuana cultivation and dispensaries to increase their product use and harms in Great Falls.
4. I request you read The Missoula Current News 6/6/2025 article "Montana marijuana industry shares concerns over testing". From a web search I found "Montana currently has limited marijuana potency testing labs, with only one lab actively conducting necessary tests for marijuana products...."

Only ONE lab! It's at its capacity. Would adding more labs solve the problem? I would hope so but by allowing more marijuana businesses doesn't seem to be the right thing to do. It simply exasperated the problem.

Ron Paulick