

Mayor's Report on Medical Marijuana

In November of 2010, the citizens of the State of Arizona approved Proposition 203, thus making legal the use of marijuana for medical purposes. Because this came from the citizens of the state rather than being legalized on a federal level, the usual means of drug manufacture, control, and distribution were not utilized. If the approval had come from the federal level, marijuana would have probably been grown on large farms in the Midwest owned by the major drug companies, prescribed by your local doctor, and picked up at the pharmacy window at Walgreens or Safeway like any other prescription medication.

Instead, we now have medical marijuana cards, local growing facilities, and medical marijuana dispensaries, all administered under the Arizona Department of Health Services. At a study session back in October of 2013, the Chino Valley Town Council went through approximately 100 pages of regulations regarding inspection, inventory control, and security for medical marijuana growing facilities and dispensaries. Because medical marijuana can be legally grown and distributed throughout Arizona, it is essential that the Council be informed regarding the regulations for the industry. The regulating authorities for the medical marijuana industry in the State of Arizona are ARS36-2801: The Arizona Medical Marijuana Act, and State Regulations Title 9: Health Services, Chapter 17: Medical Marijuana Program.

The Chino Valley Town Council has adopted several resolutions regarding the marijuana industry: Resolution No. 14-1025 (a resolution opposing the legalization of recreational marijuana), and Resolution No. 14-1030 (a resolution in support of legislation to impose tax on facilities growing medical marijuana), as well as clarifying the language in the Town's Unified Development Ordinance.

Regardless of where we may stand on the medical marijuana issue, the majority of Arizona's voters who showed up at the polls in 2010 voted to legalize its use. Since we never know what will get legalized next, I strongly encourage you to participate in your own future. Get registered and vote at the next election. You just might make a difference.

Chris Marley, Mayor of Chino Valley