

Re: ORDINANCE NO. 2021-11Bill Sosis <william.n.sosis@gmail.com>

Wed 6/23/2021 8:50 PM

To: Desiree Dillon <ddillon@mansfieldtownship-nj.gov>; Dena Hrebenak <dhrebenak@mansfieldtownship-nj.gov>; Glenn McGuinness <gmcguinness@mansfieldtownship-nj.gov>; Dena Hrebenak <dhrebenak@mansfieldtownship-nj.gov>; Joseph Farino <jfarino@mansfieldtownship-nj.gov>; Joe Watters <jwatters@mansfieldtownship-nj.gov>; Michael Lavery <mlavery@lsaclaw.com>; Ron Hayes <rhayes@mansfieldtownship-nj.gov>

I attempted to rejoin the meeting after your private session but received the following message.

Leave meeting You are unable to rejoin this meeting because you were previously removed by the host

On Wed, Jun 23, 2021 at 8:45 PM Bill Sosis <william.n.sosis@gmail.com> wrote:

Mansfield Committee Members:

What's wrong with your public sessions? Why does the mayor race through the public portion? Do you want to stop people from commenting? I've used my current Zoom setup countless times and ONLY when there's a committee meeting have I had a problem where I cannot be heard.

Tonight I wanted to oppose ORDINANCE NO. 2021-11. I believe this Ordinance creates a conflict of interest for this committee for the following reasons:

1. New Jerseyans have OVERWHELMINGLY voted in favor of cannabis legalization. Countless state and national polls show that voters overwhelmingly favor marijuana even for recreational use (not to mention medical purposes). By adopting a position that is conspicuously more favorable to law enforcement than the public at large and medical marijuana patients, the municipality has failed in its duty to protect the public interest.
2. ORDINANCE NO. 2021-11 perverts crime statistics, ignores decades of scientific and medical studies, and egregiously perpetuates social injustice.
3. Marijuana legalization provides municipalities with a significant source of tax revenue of up to 2%.
4. Having already voted favorably for legalization, ORDINANCE NO. 2021-11 violates Article I, paragraph 2, of New Jersey's Constitution which states that all political power is inherent in the people and that the Government's purpose is for the protection, security, and benefit of the people. Ethical conduct hence requires the committed to place the public interests above all others, including its own private interests.
5. It's clear that the incentives police enjoy from keeping marijuana illegal are immense. This explains why police have been campaigning against marijuana legalization. For starters, although ticket quotas are illegal in New Jersey, the performance evaluations of police officers are still dependent on ticket numbers and arrests. There are other financial incentives such as the Byrne Grant program (JAG), which since 2005 includes local law enforcement. Programs like JAG have pushed police departments to prioritize drug crimes such as marijuana arrests over other investigations.

6. ORDINANCE NO. 2021-11 ignores the drug and opioid epidemic and the benefits cannabis has on alleviating drug addiction.

7. ORDINANCE NO. 2021-11 also ignores the fact that the benefit of any drug therapy is determined by the balance between efficacy of the drug and the adverse drug reactions. When the adverse drug reactions of a prescription drug offset its benefits, the drug must be discontinued. Unlike marijuana, which has a history of 10,000 years, and has never been shown to cause harm, many prescription drugs can cause adverse-effects that are harmful or life-threatening. Prescription drugs kill far more people in the U.S. every year than all illegal drugs combined. In 2016, 42,249 or 66.4% of all 63,632 drug deaths in the United States were from opioids. Non-life-threatening drugs can have serious adverse-effects. New prescription drugs have a 1 in 5 chance of causing serious adverse-effects. Glaucoma medications, for example, may cause changes in eye color, darkening of the eyelid, low blood pressure, reduced pulse rate, deformed eyelids (ptosis), depression, and several other reactions. These adverse-effects are often treated by administering more drugs.

GIVEN THE EVENTS OF TONIGHT I ASK THAT MY ABOVE COMMENTS BE PUBLISHED IN YOUR MINUTES FOR 06-23-2021.

Bill Sosis

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