City of Golden
Amendment 64 Implementation Task Force (A64 Task Force)
Public Meeting Agenda

March 20th, 2014  6:30pm
Meeting Location: Golden Visitors Center, 1010 Washington Ave., Golden CO

Task Force Members: Bill Fisher (Chair), Gretchen Carter, Josephine Colacci, Christopher Gallup, Judith Goeke, David Jones, Stephen Katz, Dawn Smith, Shawn Steigner, Bill Hayashi (City Attorney)

Note: David Jones not in attendance

Task Force City Staff: Chief Bill Kilpatrick
Members of Public: John McDonough, Rocky Mountain Organic Medicine

6:30pm  -  Welcome & Approval of Minutes
Minutes Approved

6:40pm  -  Opening Speaker, Mr. Christopher Reyburn, M.D.
Dr. Reyburn sent his regrets, but was unable to join the Task Force due to a family conflict.

7:15pm  -  Speaker: Mr. Lewis Koski
Director, Colorado Dept. of Revenue,
Marijuana Enforcement Division

Discussed multiple models in Colorado, including the “Caregiver” model, which has an estimated 5,000 caregivers. Each caregiver can grow and provide marijuana for 5 patients as well as themselves (total of 6).

July 1, 2010 – medical enforcement licensing of centers and infused product manufacturers

State of Medical Marijuana:
500 centers
750 cultivations
143 infused product manufacturers (MIPS)
½ in Denver

38 of 300 jurisdictions have some sort of marijuana allowance
Denver is the largest
Springs 2nd largest, but only medical marijuana
Boulder 3rd largest
Then the Ft. Collins area and most facilities along I-25 and I-70 corridors.

Current state of testing facilities / labs
7 applicants
3 licensed by state
2 approved locally

Enforcement / Inspections
Mr. Koski discussed a risk-based assessment system, such that new applicants are likely to be inspected sooner. He noted that it could be a year before a licensing inspector comes out. This is based on giving the facility time to be operational before inspection.

Licensing decisions are made approximately within 60 days, with a range of 45 to 90 days.

They are developing criteria to evaluate complaints as well as compliance stings.

Mr. Koski mentioned the need for increased legitimacy and talking with store operators about this. For example, he noted that in compliance checks operators were not selling to minors, but were providing guidance as to where minors could obtain marijuana. He stated that Golden’s medical marijuana dispensary has been administratively reviewed 5 times since opening. Chief Kilpatrick stated that this center has been checked for compliance by Golden Police one time since opening.

Mr. Koski mentioned various potential opportunities for tracking and accountability at local level. Based on questions from the task force, Mr. Koski said that plants would be bar-coded and tagged with RFID chips, but not necessarily scanned. For example, operators could also manually input information into the computer system, and this system is continuing to be developed. He mentioned that in the future local law enforcement may be given an option to investigate whether someone transporting marijuana was doing so legally. Currently there is no way for local law enforcement to check the validity of a person’s claim.

Mr. Koski discussed how localities need to talk with state regarding local best practices and ideas for enforcement. Chief Kilpatrick mentioned that he will follow up, but that Golden Police will likely require additional training, computers, resources, and staffing to appropriately enforce regulations and ensure safety. Chief Kilpatrick noted a lack of legal enforcement for various reasons, and Mr. Koski noted there have been few attempted prosecutions by District Attorneys.
Mr. Koski mentioned that approximately half of original license applications failed for one reason or another, citing the process to ensure adequate licensees, although some applications were only recently processed from as far back as 2010, during which time some of the licensees were operating.

Mr. Koski additionally discussed upcoming testing deadlines, which will have a rolling start beginning in May and fully operational by October, and took questions.

8:00pm - Speaker: Mr. Bob Doyle  
Executive Director, Colorado Tobacco Education and Prevention Alliance

Mr. Doyle stated that he did not support legalization, in part because he saw the same strategies and messaging as used by tobacco coming back again.

Mr. Doyle states there are red flags when talking about regulating marijuana like alcohol. He stated that alcohol is the most abused substance, both by adults as well as minors, and this is not a good model.

Mr. Doyle stated that tobacco is far more regulated than alcohol. However, even after the 50-state settlement, Big Tobacco continued with illegal activity and a 2006 Federal case demonstrated this. He made the point that these corporations would continue to deceive the public and target minors.

Mr. Doyle noted that more than 66% of marijuana users will start in their teens, and thus the industry will necessarily copy Big Tobacco in targeting our children to ensure their success.

Mr. Doyle discussed increasing use both in Colorado and Denver as compared to the rest of the country, as well as increasing use in high schools. He noted that new drug delivery devices such as vape pens (hand-held vaporizers) were making marijuana use more pronounced among middle-school and high-school students, even to the point of being used more frequently during school.

Mr. Doyle noted there are other costs associated with increased marijuana use, which includes increased school staff time to deal with the issue. In addition, he noted that high school students will face a more difficult job environment and have fewer opportunities for jobs and careers if they use marijuana. Mr. Doyle encourages the City to use it’s constitutional power to opt-out of retail recreational marijuana. If the city does go forward and opt-in, he encourages the strongest regulation, especially regarding youth access and availability of products targeted towards children such as edibles including cupcakes, suckers, marijuana-coated kids’ cereals, etc.
Mr. Steigner stated that he did not believe the basis for the statistics presented by Mr. Doyle. By way of example, Mr. Steigner noted that without knowing whether graduation rates of kids who use marijuana differed from other kids, he believed it was not useful data.

Mr. Fisher reiterated that young adults will face difficulties getting jobs, and will be locked out of professions such as health care, which will not allow employees who use marijuana. Mr. Steigner responded and asked why Mr. Fisher and others can’t do their job in health care if they use marijuana, and further made a similar distinction regarding truck drivers. (Mr. Steigner followed up via email after the meeting to clarify that he does not believe companies should exclude people from today’s workforce for testing positive for marijuana).

8:30pm - Wrap-up
Discuss progress on assigned projects
The task force thanked both speakers, and discussed next steps including the Public Input Listening Session. Task Force members discussed various outreach including making people aware of the upcoming listening session. Ms. Smith of the Chamber provided a handout with collected comments from approximately 30 business owners that were questioned regarding the issue of marijuana in Golden, primarily focused on retail recreational marijuana.

8:40pm - Adjournment