

FYI – Jim

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Sent: Saturday, March 3, 2018 10:06 AM

To: James Harrison <JHarrison@leg.state.vt.us>; twhipple@sbpdvt.org; Helen Head <HHead@leg.state.vt.us>

Subject: H.819 Marijuana Smoke Bill

Hello

My name is Elizabeth Dumas, and I live on East Terrace in South Burlington Vermont. I am writing to register my displeasure that H.819 is not only being considered, but that the Chief of Police in South Burlington spoke in support of this bill.

1. Trevor Whipple testified that he'd never had a complaint for pot smoke in South Burlington, so why create an issue which to this point isn't one? Does he believe that no one in South Burlington smokes marijuana at this time and when growing becomes legal, a dense fog of marijuana smoke is going to descend on his city like none that has ever been seen before?

Chief Whipple has more to worry about in his city than smoke from a weed--heroin, crack, bombs, illegal firearms, sexual predators and other criminal activity that I won't name.

South Burlington had plenty of Real crimes, but it also establishes ordinances that it can't enforce already, like parking ordinances, which are violated at will.

South Burlington City Ordinance, Section 32 states: “No person, shall between the hours of 12 midnight and 8am including Sundays and legal holidays, during the period of December 1 of each year to April 1st of the following year, park any vehicle within the limits of any public highway of the City.”

Whipple has said when asked about these ordinances, **his officers are fighting real crimes. So his officers are going to bust someone for blowing smoke from a weed?** That is ridiculous. Don't establish ordinances you won't enforce whether it's parking or weed.

2. Marijuana is a weed which grows in the soil, and the only desirable part of the plant, THC and cannabinoids, are part of the plant's natural genetics.

3. Cigarettes are poison. Cigarettes contain over 4,000 chemicals, 43 known cancer causing compounds, including nicotine, various tars, carbon monoxide, arsenic, ammonia, cyanide, butane, benzene, nickel, lead, hydrogen cyanide, formaldehyde, and DDT. Second hand cigarette smoke, which is not illegal, belches cancer causing agents into the air and has been proven to cause birth

defects and kills millions.

4. Has Chief Whipple, who claims he's never smoked marijuana but yet feels he could testify about it, ever smoked a cigarette? Which is worse for fellow humans and the environment? He must be educated enough to see the difference, and as a South Burlington resident, I'd prefer that he protect me from cigarettes rather than pot.

Law officers like Chief Whipple need to focus on creating a safer environment for the residents of South Burlington, not wasting our tax dollars prattling on about non issues. Representatives to the Vermont House should also worry about stemming the tidal wave of crime and environmental hazards, not a few puffs from a weed.

Thank you.
Elizabeth Dumas

Sent from my iPhone