

Coalition to Demonstrate Off-Site Cannabis Sales at Upcoming Cannabis Convention

Montpelier, VT – A group of Vermont based cannabis experts will demonstrate a proposed cannabis event permit on Friday, May 2 at 2pm at the upcoming [Vermont Cannabis Convention](#). The 6th Annual Vermont Cannabis Convention takes place May 2-3 at the Champlain Valley Expo in Essex Junction.

The stated goal of this specific Off-Site workshop is to create a legal space for cannabis consumption and sales by 21+ adults at private events in Vermont, such as weddings, concerts and festivals. Despite regulating and taxing the sales of legal cannabis three years ago, Vermont lawmakers have yet to create a way for consumers to legally consume cannabis, which workshop organizers say is hurting consumers, businesses, and the cannabis industry.

Eli Harrington, President of the Vermont Cannabis Convention and Founder of the Vermontijuana cannabis brand, has long advocated for event permits similar to alcohol. “There’s a gap between what the regulated market presently allows and where and how people actually consume cannabis. We’ve got taxed, regulated, and insured products and highly trained staff to serve and sell cannabis in an identical fashion to an alcohol catering permit.”

In addition to Harrington, panelists include Meredith Mann and Bailey Evans, dispensary owners of Magic Mann and Higher Elevation, respectively, Jesse Harper, Owner of Vermont Security, and Timothy Egan, Exec. Dir. of Vermont NORML and faculty at Vermont State University’s Cannabis Studies Program.

Egan explains a key component of legalizing cannabis consumption at events is the sale of a legal product – an impossible roadblock in the pre-dispensary days. “We’re not trying to reinvent the wheel here: even though cannabis is infinitely safer than alcohol, the beer and alcohol industry has created an easy catering permit model to replicate with an off-site sale, and area for that product to be consumed safely by adults. This will enhance Vermont’s Tourism economy”

At the panel itself, the presenters will break down the current requirements for a legal retail cannabis sale into the specific components -- layout, security, cameras, POS, staffing, storage, and sales -- and show how each requirement can be met using existing technology and standard operating procedure.

In addition to discussing the proposed off-site sales scenario, the group built a small mock dispensary at the convention with temporary walls that includes an ID check, security cameras, and staffed by licensed dispensary employees.

THC cannabis products will not be sold at the mock dispensary, but the group is in communication and coordinating with the Vermont Cannabis Control Board (CCB) to present an off-site sales and consumption demonstration that fits within current retail regulations and could be implemented as soon as the next Legislative session.

Magic Mann dispensary owner Meredith Mann points out that a catering permit model similar to alcohol would likely require a local sign-off, meaning both towns and venues would be able to control exactly where and when they allow consumption at temporary events.

“We do this with weddings with alcohol all the time. There’s nothing new here except that now we’ve got a trained budtender checking IDs and providing a regulated and tested product...instead of sneaking off into the woods with your cousins or friends.”

About Vermont Cannabis Convention

The Vermont Cannabis Convention is Vermont’s largest B2B and B2C cannabis gathering featuring 75+ exhibitors and fourteen interactive workshops and speaker panels.

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