

5/21/2019

ITEM 6.P

**Genevieve Yip**

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**From:** Kirk Vartan <kirk@asliceofny.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2019 4:49 PM  
**To:** Mayor and Council; Manager  
**Subject:** Item 6P - Tues, May 21, 2019 - Disappointed, reduce ban timing

Dear Mayor and Council:

ASK: Reduce the ban to Dec 31, 2019 (not July 1, 2020)

I attended the November 7, 2017 council meeting when the emergency ordinance was put into effect to ban all marijuana/cannabis activities in Santa Clara. This was done so there was time to create the correct policies and "do it right" but everyone said there was a sense of urgency to do it. That was unanimous. And I remember the date of Dec 31, 2018 was challenged as being so far out, being that over 70% of the residents wanted legal activities allowed in Santa Clara. The response: it can always be shorter, but this gives us a cushion.

It was also stated that staff was working to get this done sooner. The expectation was it would be done before the 2018 date, a date that many felt was too long to begin with.

And then, in November of 2018, it got extended to June 2019.

And now, after 18 months..and more if you think about how long this was known about, you are looking to expand the ban until June 2020....not even through Dec 2019. It is just another way to allow for the sense of urgency to dissipate. This was supposed to have been done by Dec 2017. Then Dec 2018. Then June 2019.

There is plenty of existing work and materials in place to allow for the city to review and act on. I am expressing my disappointment in Santa Clara's reluctance to participate in this new industry and become a leader in this field as well. The Agrihood could potentially benefit from a law in Santa Clara.

In any case, I am asking you to consider shortening the length of time the Staff is asking for to create the ordinances in Santa Clara. A ban is of over a year is too long for something that should have been done months ago. Whether you personally agree the cannabis products should be used by individuals or not should be second to the clear message that the residents said it should be allowed in Santa Clara. They told you with their vote how they feel. And if cannabis continues to be seen as a drug no one wants to talk about or seen as "bad" or worse than alcohol, the worse it will be for businesses that come to Santa Clara.

Thanks for considering this opinion.

Kind regards,

Kirk Vartan

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