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Subject: Public comment and a written communication concerning Item #7 on the April 20th CC agenda
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Public comment and a written communication concerning Item #7, Discussion and Direction Regarding Various Possible Changes to the City's Cannabis Regulations, on the April 20th City Council agenda.

The cannabis industry is unique in that the state requires the licensing authority (City of Lompoc) to conduct regular and detailed oversight of licensees. The same level of scrutiny is not required for wineries, breweries or alcohol sales locations or any other business. As detailed in Recommendation #6 the annual ongoing cost to operate the proposed Cannabis Oversight Division would be approximately \$1,247,000.

Staff is recommending that the City Council consider placing on an upcoming election a measure to adopt an annual license renewal requirement with associated fees.

Why would an election be required? The City Council periodically updates the Master Fee Schedule and Utility User Fees, and with exception of Public Comment during public hearings the voters are never involved in the decision-making process. In item #4, "Annual Renewals and Fees" it clearly states that "It is recommended that that **fee** be part of the City's overall **cost recovery fee** study and be updated annually." And, state law requires an annual renewal of cannabis licenses and the City has agreed to incorporate state requirements.

I cannot recall any election since I moved here in 1975 where the subject of a fee was on a ballot. Therefore, the City Council should direct staff to prepare a fee study for this activity and return it to the CC for debate and action.

Ron Fink
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