

June 1, 2021

Mayor Osborne and Members of the City Council,

At the last City Council meeting the vote was 3-2 in favor of staff coming back with options for updating the tax structure as it relates to the cannabis industry. On the agenda I see several recommendations that are to be discussed tonight at the 1 June 2021 City Council meeting. Ultimately, you need to move forward tonight in agreement that the voters of this City should be the ones deciding on whether a tax on the cannabis manufacturing and distribution industry is warranted. To get there we need for you as a Council to adopt Resolution 6414(21) declaring a fiscal emergency by a 5-0 vote and then adopt Resolution 6415(21) by a vote of at least 4 Council members. What we as city residents need to see and hear tonight is that you believe in our rights as voters to decide. Not taxing the manufacturers and distribution sites is unfathomable. It also costs US as taxpayers nothing if you tax those multi-million-dollar businesses, but it will do a considerable amount to fix some of the poor decisions that have previously been made. It will also greatly help shore up the holes in our infrastructure with public safety, parks and recreation, libraries, etc. that need much needed support. We cannot fix our entire community on the backs of the cannabis industry, however, if those industries are going to be doing business in OUR town, then they should pay their fair and equitable taxes, plain and simple. So, do the right thing, come together, and agree without the grandstanding that we the voters deserve the right to make this decision. Stop kicking this can down the street and be unified tonight in your approach. You have enough information, and you have enough guidance from City staff to decide tonight by a 5-0 vote so that we can get this on the ballot THIS YEAR. All you must do is put the ball in motion...then let us carry it.

Thank you,

Ann McCarty
Lompoc City Resident