



LOMBARD POLICE DEPARTMENT

TO: Scott Niehaus
Village Manager

FROM: Roy Newton
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Potential Impact of Cannabis Dispensaries
On Police Operations

DATE: June 26, 2019

At your request, we have compiled a brief report outlining the potential impact of legalized cannabis and cannabis dispensaries on our police operations. The intent of this information is to provide objective information that will assist Village of Lombard staff and elected officials in making decisions leading up to and after the legalization of recreational cannabis.

There are a number of communities, at or around the same size as Lombard, that currently house *medical* cannabis dispensaries (MCD). They are:

Naperville
Arlington Heights
Mount Prospect
Elmwood Park
Rolling Meadows
Deerfield
Evanston
Oak Park
North Aurora
Romeoville
Addison

We contacted the aforementioned communities in an effort to seek information on the impact to police service that an MCD would cause. Through our daily bulletin reports, statewide critical reach reports, and general media, I have found there are limited calls for police service at MCD locations. The following communities responded to our request for information concerning police activity at their medical dispensaries:

Addison: The Addison Police Department indicated that they have had no calls for service at the MCD. They also stated that they have no received crime or community complaints related to the facility.

North Aurora: They indicated that they have had five calls for service at their MCD since December of 2015. These calls were for three false burglar alarms, one counterfeit currency complaint, and one inquiry about a state ID card.

Elmwood Park: They indicated they have had no calls for service or any community complaints at the MCD located in their jurisdiction in the years they have been open.

Arlington Heights: Although a few calls for service are indicated since opening in June of 2018, the calls are the norm for generally any business within their community. The MCD has had little impact on their operations. Specifically, 10 false burglar alarms, a burglary to a storage container, one suspicious circumstances report, one customer dispute, one suspicious vehicle report, and one disorderly conduct incident.

Mount Prospect: They indicated that they have had no issues involving the MCD located in their jurisdiction.

Deerfield: They indicated that there has been five alarm calls since opening in mid-2014.

Naperville: They have experienced minimal calls for service and most calls are for false burglar alarms.

Romeoville: There have been no incidents with this business in the two years they have been open.

At this moment with legalization dispensaries being new, I cannot assume that the impact of MCD's will be similar to the impact of recreational cannabis dispensaries (RCD). Although there are many illicit users of cannabis currently, RCD's will be a vehicle for current users who will now be able to purchase legally. I do not see a sudden increase in the amount of users just because it is now legal. I would also note that with the extreme tax rate that has been imposed on any purchase, the "black market" will continue to flourish.

Certainly a concern of the police department will be on the impact of impaired driving and traffic crashes. Since 2013, the Lombard Police Department has made 56 impaired driving arrests in which drivers tested positive for THC (the component of cannabis that causes a "high"). Approximately 27% of those arrests involved a traffic crash. After medical cannabis became legal, there was a mild increase in the number of DUI cannabis arrests but that number has seemed too stabilized.

It is reasonable to assume that the legalization of cannabis can increase the demand for police services as well as the number of drug impaired drivers on our roadways. However, this will likely occur whether or not the Village of Lombard allows an RCD or not.

Respectfully,

Chief Newton

