

Supports Medical Pot, But Not the Abuse of Licenses

Editor:

□ I am a supporter of medical use of pot. This is the problem: Too many abuse this license and anyone can get one.

□ As an apartment manager, the smell travels through the building, there are kids that are pre-school and getting high before they get to school and don't even know it. Some have asthma. It is listed as a carcinogen.

□ It is the abuses it brings to the community that all must suffer. As a property manager ,we have a no-smoking building and that covers all smoking products, we respect the federal law.

□ I would say to the people supporting this in the council to talk to property managers and get informed about what we go through. You obviously don't have a clue about this problem in the community, as true users of medical pot do not pose a threat, but they are outnumbered by the abusers.

—Linda DeNarde, *San Leandro*

Says It's 'Way Past Time' to Get Real About Marijuana

Editor:

□ Well, what do you know? A sign of intelligent life in San Leandro. Who would have thunk it?

□ My hat is off to letter-writer, Larry Pacewitz, (*"Pot vs. Alcohol, What's OK and What's Not," Letters, Dec. 20*). He thoughtfully took apart the more specious arguments against Medical Marijuana we have been deluged with since the city leadership has begun to discuss the issue again.

□ It is way past time for facts and reality about the sea change this nation is undergoing regarding this issue. The drivel and obfuscation we have been getting sounds more like the nonsense we got from the 1930s anti-marijuana cult film, "Reefer Madness."

—Vernon S. Burton, *San Leandro*

Disappointed by Loss of Stores, Low School Scores

Editor:

□ I have lived in San Leandro since 1950. At that time we had a J.C.Penney, Homemaker store, Karl's shoes and Singer, all in the Safeway block.

□ I am so disappointed that someone in our city government has not found a way to stop the store-after-store

closings in San Leandro. The Lucky store site seems to be a perfect location for a business.

□ Why is it that we have not had any interest in that site (except coffee shops, etc. which we have too many of already) and not a high-end food market like Trader Joe's. Why can't we offer Trader Joe's that site with free rent for a year if that is what it would take. To put an extra tax

burden on businesses
at this time is a very bad idea.

□ My 4 children went through San Leandro's school system and I was pleased with the curriculum. It is disheartening to see the low scores those students are achieving now. If Castro Valley gets the same dollar amount that San Leandro does then someone in our school board should be investigating that and correcting it.

□ Shopping and schools: The state that both are in is not good for our property values.

—**Barbara Moyles**, *San Leandro*

Believes It's Time to Get Rid of the 2nd Amendment

Editor:

□ The 2nd Amendment supposedly gives a citizen the right to bear arms. In 2010 that right allowed us to murder 8,775 of our fellow citizens, including men, women and children with firearms.

□ Our latest murders at the Sandy Hook Elementary school took the lives of 20 children. Haven't we had enough of the 2nd Amendment and firearms? We are suppose to be an advanced country, but we're acting like we are still living on the frontier. We don't need guns any longer to hunt for our meat. The grocery stores have plenty.

□ The Indians are no longer burning our homes and farms. The biggest threat the Indians pose today is a rigged roulette table.

□ We no longer have to worry about the Kings and Queens taking away our freedoms, they have been dispatched. In Britain, citizens are restricted from owning firearms and their murder rate is a fraction of ours. Although they are 1/5 the size of the US, in 2010 they had 58 murders by firearms.

□ In 2012, Oakland alone has twice that many. If we feel that we need protection from home invaders, street thugs or wild animals, we have and can develop less lethal weapons like taser or stun guns, or chemical discharge devices or even concussion grenades.

□ It is time for the nation to move into the 21st century and repeal the 2nd Amendment and save lives.

□ Let us exchange our guns for a safer nation.

—**Elie Parker**, *San Leandro*

Retiree Wants to Tell the Truth About City Workers

Editor:

□ On Dec. 12, 2012, after 33 years of service, I retired from the City of San Leandro's Engineering and Transportation Department. It was truly my pleasure serving the city in which my wife and I grew up. This is a wonderful city in which to live, work and raise children.

□ My wife and I will remain residents of San Leandro and we will continue to entrust our City Council with our retirement tax dollars. Having been on the inside, I know the truth about your city employees and I am here to tell.

□ Your current city employees are the hardest working and most dedicated city employees I have ever had the pleasure of working with. I was with the city long enough to remember when the city offered to pay the employee's share of pension premiums in lieu of cost-of-living increases.

□ To now ask city employees to assume that cost would amount to a breach of contract and result in an 8% salary reduction. In today's economy, how many families could survive an 8% reduction in take-home pay?

□ I can attest that your employees have repeatedly stepped up and endured personal hardships to help our City Council balance their budget. Over the last 5 years, city employees have not taken a cost-of-living increase and agreed to 18 unpaid furlough days. □

□ During that same 5 year period, the cost of living in the San Francisco Bay Area has gone up 11.4%. This creates an unfunded liability at home for those employees.

□ Some of your employees are forced to work 2 jobs to make ends meet. Some of your employees have lost their homes! I read recently about managers getting a \$10,000-a-year

raise. That would be an 18% increase to the average “miscellaneous employee’s” salary. Then the City Council commits over \$3 million to a hospital that won’t treat most city employees. We should be ashamed that employees are losing their homes while we help a conglomerate save a hospital that won’t treat them!

—**Jerry Maughan**, *San Leandro*