

Attachment 'B'

August 30, 2203

Fellow CM's, I wanted to reach out to share some information about what has been happening with the Reedley illegal lab situation. There is so much I would like to share, but given how time constrained we all are, I will hold the majority of thoughts until we meet in person. Reedley has experienced a gigantic learning curve in how to engage these state and federal agencies. The roadblocks in the bureaucracy have been mind-boggling, so I certainly want to make sure I pass along the protocols that these agencies must follow in order to work with local government. For now, however, there are a few key timely items that you may be wondering about.

First, the City's website has a link on our homepage that jumps you to the County's page for all of the formal information on what has occurred. There is a You Tube segment on the presentation that Joe Prado, Assistant Public Health Director, and I gave to the Board. The Superior Court's web link with all of the Inspection and Abatement Warrant documents is also on that page. Don't hesitate to contact me directly with any questions or concerns about the information you see there. Your Code Officers and City Attorneys may find the warrant paperwork helpful in future cases you may have. We have learned volumes in Due Process and 4th Amendment regulations for non-criminal type situations.

Second, the City of Reedley is finalizing a Draft Ordinance that will go to our Council on September 12th. It will place a temporary moratorium on the establishment of labs with Bio Safety Hazard Levels 2-4 (Level 1 labs are like agricultural labs and such that deal with microbes and organisms that are non-hazardous to humans and we have no desire to rock the boat with our ag partners in the City). CLIA regulated labs (federal and State regulated labs), like hospital and doctor office labs are excluded from this Ordinance. This moratorium will allow the City to go back and amend our Zoning Code to explore long-term permitting (if any) for labs. In conjunction with this, we are currently working with the Public Health Department and County Counsel's Office as they explore a process through formal MOU that will allow the Public Health Department to work closer with each city and keep all County residents safe.

Both of these items are stop-gap interim items until we can press for fixes to the national and state regulations that have some pretty gaping holes in regulation for non-CLIA regulated research and development labs, among other things. Any assistance you can provide to press for federal regulation changes would be appreciated. I do have meetings scheduled with attorneys for several Congressional Committees on potential needed changes at the federal level.

You and your Councils may already have ideas you are exploring for your city, or you may not want to make any changes right now. I fully understand both sides of that coin. I will send along the draft Reedley Ordinance if you would like to see it. If you do have ideas for your City, I would love to see what it is you are doing. This group of City Managers is probably the most intelligent, innovative, and collaborative I have yet worked with. Reedley doesn't have all the answers. We know that.

Lastly, my heartfelt thanks to all of you. I absolutely appreciate all of you who have reached out and offered your support.

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