



**DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MARSHALL POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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July 28, 2023

Dear Mayor Byrnes:

This letter is regarding the legalized-adult use of cannabis in Minnesota which goes into effect on August 1st, 2023. Under the new law, outdoor smoking of cannabis and hemp products can occur in most public areas such as our parks and sidewalks. At the July 25th, 2023, Marshall City Council meeting an introduction of an ordinance prohibiting the use of cannabis and hemp in public places was discussed and eventually sent back to the Law and Ordinance Committee for further discussion.

Because of the impact that public smoking of cannabis and hemp could have on our community, I am requesting that you consider having further discussions with Council in advance of August 1st, to ensure the health and social fabric of our community is not compromised. The public use of cannabis and hemp in our parks and public areas, which will begin in four days, may have adverse implications for our children.

As your Director of Public Safety, I have always valued the opinions of others and respected the processes of City government. However, with the legalization and allowed public use of cannabis and hemp to happen within days, I feel it is important we take immediate action to ensure our city and community remain safe and strong.

Sincerely,

James Marshall
Director of Public Safety

CC: Sharon Hanson