

Alan Bierce, Sutter Creek. I am having this read into the record as I cannot attend the meeting.

Short background. I was born in Sutter Creek and was raised in Amador County. I attended Cal, majored in Criminology and served as a police officer for the City of Berkeley for 31 years. I worked a broad range of assignments, heading up both the Vice and Homicide Details. Neither one of those assignments would pre-dispose me to support a cannabis dispensary in Sutter Creek.

A cannabis dispensary in Sutter Creek will make money for the city. It will make a LOT of money for Embarc. While there will be financial benefits for the city, there will be significant costs, which should not be measured in dollars, but by the impact on the lives of our residents. And nearly all of those impacts will not be positive.

When I worked in Homicide, about 40% of the murders in the city were drug related. Certainly, most of those crimes were related to illicit narcotics, but I am sure we would all agree that just one homicide related to any drug would unacceptable.

Additional impacts of having a dispensary in Sutter Creek is the likely increase in DUI's, the increased likelihood of property crimes, the element that such a business can bring to the city and the potential for minors to have a greater access to drugs. Anything that increases that access should be considered in any decision that the city makes.

In my opinion, and I stress that, this is a door that we do not want to open. If we do, it will be difficult to close.

Thanks for listening.