

March 16, 2025

Subject: Support for the Dissolution of the Cannabis Ordinance Task Force (COTF)

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

We are writing to express our strong support for the dissolution of the Cannabis Ordinance Task Force (COTF). The challenges outlined in the January 14th COTF update to your Board remain substantially unchanged. The COTF's difficulty in reaching a quorum, already an issue in 2024, worsened in 2025, with 80 percent of meetings canceled this year compared to 44 percent in 2024. Additionally, the guidance provided by your Board during the COTF update—that the COTF was intentionally structured for balanced representation and welcomes all participants—went unheeded.

For more than 33 months, the general public consistently asked for their concerns regarding cannabis regulations to be taken seriously. For years, Community Development Department (CDD) staff told the public that the public concerns would be discussed after COTF reviewed each section of the current cannabis ordinance. Meanwhile, the cannabis industry was allowed to add topics to COTF agendas and present to COTF.

Recently, Holly Harris and Chuck Lamb submitted a consolidated list of the public's concerns and recommendations accumulated over the years for COTF discussion. At present, the public's concerns remain sidelined while the interests of the cannabis industry have taken priority. This longstanding imbalance and disregard for public input undermines trust in the process and calls into question the legitimacy of the COTF's role.

We urge your Board to ensure that, going forward, the list of public concerns and recommendations provided by Ms. Harris and Mr. Lamb is granted equal weight to the recommendations of the COTF when ordinance revisions are reviewed by future decision-making bodies such as the Planning Commission, Agriculture Commission, and your Board. It is imperative the voices of the residents most affected by cannabis policy be given the same consideration as industry stakeholders. Cannabis policy should be an equal win for the County, the cannabis industry and the communities of Lake County. Moving forward without granting the public's concern equal weight would reinforce the perception that the process is exclusionary and biased.

We recognize and appreciate the dedication and public service of those COTF members who willingly extended their civic duty far beyond the initial six-month term with integrity

and without any expectation of personal or financial gain. However, potential conflicts of interest within the COTF have surfaced, raising significant ethical and legal concerns. If these conflicts constitute Brown Act violations, any COTF recommendations influenced by such violations should be considered compromised and deemed null and void. It is essential to uphold the integrity of the decision-making process and restore public confidence in governance.

Given these ongoing concerns, we support the decision to immediately discontinue the Cannabis Ordinance Task Force and respectfully urge your Board to take the necessary steps toward ensuring a more balanced, transparent, and equitable approach to cannabis regulation moving forward.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Margaux Kambara
Thomas Lajcik
Lake County Residents