



April 3, 2017

Marijuana and Alcohol Alert



Eight of 16 people indicted in Colorado marijuana trafficking operation listed as having state pot licenses

Michael Alan Stonehouse, the alleged ringleader, has an active "key" license - for operating a marijuana business - that is valid until November 2018, Marijuana Enforcement Division records show. That's despite a past felony conviction and state rules that bar people "not of good moral character" from getting licenses.

... **Authorities say the alleged pot ring, over about three years, used houses and properties** in places such as Colorado Springs, Castle Rock, Elbert County and Denver

to cultivate cannabis and then make high-dollar deals to sell it in Illinois, Arkansas, Minnesota and Missouri. Prosecutors say they were cultivating hundreds of pounds of marijuana each month. [Read more](#)

Colorado's War on Black Market Weed

Legalizing marijuana in Colorado was supposed to obliterate the pot black market there. Instead, a loophole in medical marijuana laws has done exactly the opposite.

The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area has found that **since Coloradans were first allowed to legally grow pot at home in 2013, drug seizures of marijuana found in U.S. mail have increased by 427 percent.** This doesn't include private carriers like FedEx, nor does it take into account pot actually driven in cars across state lines.

... **"Instead of eliminating the black market, Colorado has become the black market,"** said Gordman. [Read more](#)

Minors authorized to sell and serve alcohol in Chicago

Minors working as cashiers at Chicago grocery stores will no longer have to summon their bosses to ring up the sale of a six-pack of beer or a bottle of wine. To speed retail sales and provide more jobs for unemployed youth, the City Council voted Wednesday to let young people between the ages of 18 and 20 serve liquor in restaurants and sell unopened bottles of booze at supermarkets. The legal drinking age in Illinois is 21.

... "As we were told by some of our colleagues, 'They're drinking anyway.' So let's educate 'em, and let's make sure that they understand their responsibilities," [Alderman] Tunney said during a License Committee meeting last week. [Read more](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. [Contact](#) Gov. Rauner and your State Legislators and ask them to **Oppose the decriminalization and legalization of marijuana.**
2. **Call your [State Representative](#) and ask him/her to **Vote NO on HB 494 to legalize underage drinking in restaurants for 18-20 year olds with parents, step parents, grandparents, and legal guardians.****
3. Forward to 10 others.

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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems | | ilcaaap@sbcglobal.net | 1132 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62702

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1132 West Jefferson, Springfield, IL 62702

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