



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

Marijuana Alert - December 16, 2020



Application withdrawn for dispensary near Chicago school

. . .Midway on Tuesday abruptly withdrew its application to start selling weed at 1420 S. Michigan Ave. amid news of the acquisition and **stiff opposition from both community members and local Ald. Pat Dowell (3rd)**. **The neighbors most notably complained that the proposed location was just outside a city-mandated buffer zone from Old St. Mary's School, a Catholic elementary school.**

. . . Of the 17 licensed dispensaries in Chicago, there are just three that aren't either owned by or partnered with a multi-state pot firm or a company that also grows weed. [Read more](#)

'Epic failure' of IL legal weed backers to keep promises on diversity

[Rep.] Ford is part of a legislative working group he says is trying to remedy problems with legalization. But he says he thinks **the efforts to create social equity in the cannabis industry are a pipe dream and predicts that the current group of marijuana companies will "always dominate" the burgeoning business.**

Cresco, GTI and PharmaCann are among the growing number of legal weed businesses partnering with Innovative Industrial Properties, a publicly traded real estate investment trust known for short as IIP that's become a key player in the industry even as it remains outside state regulators' scope because it doesn't have any ownership stake in the marijuana-producing and selling businesses.

And there's **no indication yet when delayed licenses for craft cultivation, infusion and transportation will be issued.** [Read more](#)

Chicago-based weed company to go public in Canada, valued at \$3B

Verano was started as an Illinois medical marijuana grow operation in 2014 by Archos, a Chicago restaurateur. The company has evolved into a multistate

powerhouse, with a 12-state footprint and 19 retail locations under the ZenLeaf banner.

Verano has three Illinois dispensaries, in Aurora, St. Charles and Charleston, in east-central Illinois, where a store opened last week. The company plans to open ZenLeaf dispensaries in Evanston and Naperville in the coming months. [Read](#)

State's weed windfall from taxes rivals booze - and could surpass

. . . the state's share of the price of a joint is much more than its share of the cost of a six-pack of beer. **A \$15 six-pack, for example, would net 69 cents for the state, while two high-potency joints priced at \$16 would generate \$5 for the state.**

The pandemic has "had a big impact on sales numbers," said Alyssa Jank, an analyst at the Brightfield Group, a Loop-based firm that researches the cannabis industry.

"People have been at home more. *People are looking for things to do [and] people don't have to worry about being functional or capable to go and do stuff,*" Jank said.

. . . But as weed sales continue to soar, experts said local cannabis firms are still taking their cues from the booze industry. [Read more](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Local officials are looking for revenue. Stay in contact with the Mayor, City Council members/Village Trustees to let them know of your opposition to marijuana businesses. Seek to find candidate's position on marijuana in the April, 2021 local election.
2. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
3. **Forward to 10 others.**

Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action (tax deductible)



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