



# ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

## Marijuana Alert - August 12, 2021



### **Pot licenses still in limbo, but judge allows final lottery**

A lawsuit is holding up the formal issuance of recreational marijuana dispensary licenses that have been granted in a lottery in recent weeks. The suit is largely based on how the state handles a part of its application process that grants bonus points to applicants that count military veterans as owners.

The next hearing on the matter is scheduled for Aug. 16. The next lottery for 75 new dispensary licenses will proceed on Aug. 19. Read

### **Who won the weed licenses?**

The winners of the latest batch of 55 precious pot shop permits includes former NBA stars Allen Iverson and Al Harrington, Cook County Commissioner Bridget Degnen, longtime news anchor Robin Robinson and the indicted son of ex-state Rep. Eddie Acevedo.

. . . Degnen, who previously served as the deputy director of the state agency that regulates dispensaries, is affiliated with AmeriCanna Dream LLC, which notched a win in a region near St. Louis, Missouri. .

. . Degnen's chief of staff and another ex-pot regulator, Tara Meyer, is also involved with the pot startup. Read

### **More winners of lucrative licenses for pot businesses**

An entrepreneur who sold her snack brand for over a billion dollars. A Beverly Hills plastic surgeon. A regular on Kristin Cavallari's reality television show. A businessman who sold the state millions of dollars worth of ventilators as the pandemic raged. The former police chief in suburban Harvey and at least two other ex-cops. Read

### **Some pot winners looking to sell to highest bidder**

The applicants waited for more than a year for a chance to jump into

Illinois' booming weed industry. But now that they have won lucrative licenses . . . some could sell the licenses before ever opening up — potentially collecting millions in the process. [Former Senator Ricky] Hendon, who said he is merely exploring his options, believes a license could fetch between \$3 million and \$15 million, depending on which statewide region it allows a buyer to set up shop.

An industry source estimated that **each of the 185 new pot shop permits** is likely worth much less, **between \$1 million and \$3 million**. The source pegged the **going rate at \$4-\$5 million for each of the 40 new craft cultivation licenses**. [Read](#)

## **Letter: Marijuana advertising violates IL rules and puts youths at risk**

A recent **study out of Denmark** found that the proportion of schizophrenia cases linked with regular, heavy use of marijuana has dramatically risen over the past two decades. Furthermore, a **National Institutes of Health** study found that marijuana use among young adults was linked to greater odds of suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts.

When it comes to marijuana advertising, **data show** that ads further normalize marijuana and are influential in driving up youth acceptance and use. Because of this, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in June called for a global ban on marijuana advertising.

Simply put, the marijuana industry should not be able to advertise its highly potent and addictive products, much less actively encouraging daily use. [Read](#)

## **Lollapalooza increases IL recreational weed sales**

Recreational weed was legal in Illinois for the first time in Lollapalooza's 30-year history, with **large crowds of festivalgoers boosting sales** by as much as 50% at nearby dispensaries in River North and the West Loop, according to operators.

The \$127.8 million in recreational marijuana sales statewide is **up more than \$12 million** from June, according to a monthly report by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Through July, the state has generated \$753 million in recreational cannabis sales — more than all of last year. [Read](#)

## **Scientific Research Debunks Pro-Pot Arguments |**

. . . **research has indicated** that marijuana users are 2.6 times more likely to abuse opioids, perhaps because of the way the brain craves more highs.

. . . While it is difficult to say whether marijuana legalization causes crime, plenty of research suggests a strong connection.

**A 2019 study** concluded the existence of marijuana dispensaries in Denver were significantly associated with increased crime.

Marijuana dispensaries are prime targets for robberies—given

the massive amount of products that sit just behind the counter, which can later be sold in underground markets. [Read](#)

### ***For Immediate Action***

1. Contact your State [Representative](#) and [Senator](#) to ask them to OPPOSE any changes to or expansion of marijuana. Making marijuana more accessible will increase use and abuse.
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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