



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

Marijuana Alert - August 18, 2021



Cook County judge holds up issuing new licenses

Judge Moshe Jacobius conceded that an ongoing lawsuit he's presiding over could potentially upend the state's troubled cannabis licensing rollout and lead to a complete do-over. [Read](#)

Pot shop applicants sue state

Two firms vying for lucrative pot shop permits filed suit in Cook County court claiming state officials wrongfully pushed them to give up additional spots in this week's third and final licensing lottery. [Read](#)

Cook County changes drug policy for Asst. Public Defender applicants

Recreational marijuana became legal in Illinois last January. That complicated the hiring process for many, including a handful of attorneys offered jobs months ago by the Cook County Public Defender's Office. **Their offers were revoked when drug tests came back positive for marijuana.**

. . . Anyone who tests positive for any controlled substance, including marijuana, in a safety-sensitive position is prohibited from being employed in that position. . . . However, **the new Public Defender has since revised the job description** and these positions are no longer designated as a safety-sensitive, thus a drug test will not be required for future postings. [Read](#)

Des Plaines Approves Cannabis Dispensaries

As long as applicants meet the zoning regulations, they can set up dispensaries in the city's C-3, C-4, and with the Conditional Use process, C-5 districts.

What remains in place are city requirements that dispensaries can be located a minimum of 500 feet from pre-existing schools, houses of worship and commercial day care centers, and that on-site consumption not be allowed. [Read](#)

New pot greenhouse in Matteson

The “funding source” for the new facility, he told reporters, is Innovative Industrial Properties, a **San Diego-based real estate investment trust** that trades publicly and **has a \$5 billion market capitalization. The company has bought up at least six cultivation centers in the state**, including Illinois Grown Medicine, which like the others has been leased back to the operator. [U. S. Rep. Robin] Kelly, who also serves as the head of the Illinois Democratic Party, framed the new growth center as Matteson’s latest effort to “wholeheartedly embrace the future,” saying such communities “could no longer depend on shopping malls or on the main street model of small shops and businesses.” . . . “And today, we’re breaking ground for one of the largest cannabis cultivation and manufacturing facilities in Illinois.” [Read](#)

Cannabis use disorder: another COVID risk factor

These data suggest that **heavy cannabis users may have a more adverse reaction to COVID-19** and that, much like quitting tobacco smoking or reducing BMI, reducing and/or stopping heavy cannabis use may protect against severe COVID-19 reactions (i.e., being hospitalized with COVID-19). [Read](#)

Libertarians Were Wrong about Marijuana Legalization

States where recreational weed is legal have seen more drug crime, not less. [Read](#)

Why Everything We Thought About Drugs Was Wrong

Michael Shellenberger, who worked with a group of friends and colleagues in the 1990’s and early 2000’s to advocate drug decriminalization, harm reduction, and criminal justice reform said, “Our intentions were good . . . but it’s obvious now that we were wrong.

At the [safe consumption] Sites the city isn’t providing drug treatment; it’s providing easy access to drugs.

. . . And so while we should hold our elected officials responsible, we must also ask hard questions of the intellectual architects of their policies, and of the citizens, donors, and voters who empower them. **What kind of a civilization leaves its most vulnerable people to use deadly substances and die on the streets?** [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

1. Contact your [State Representative](#) and [Senator](#) and local officials

to share your concerns about marijuana. Ask Legislators to oppose HB 110 and bill to loosen restrictions on marijuana businesses.

2. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to PRAY.
3. **Forward to 10 others.**

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www.ilcaaap.org
1132 W Jefferson
Springfield, IL 60702

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