

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Warren Mayor Jim Fouts Introduces Medical Marijuana Ordinance

Warren, MI – Reacting to problems associated with the growing of medical marijuana in residential areas, Warren Mayor Jim Fouts is asking the Warren City Council to adopt the medical marijuana ordinance at its October 13 meeting.

“Right now, the growth of marijuana is out of control with plants growing unrestrained in homes,” said Fouts. “My proposal puts restrictions on the growth to protect the public health and safety of our neighborhoods.”

Fouts pointed to a Warren home that exploded last week caused by abuse of marijuana.

City Fire Department officials said the explosion was so violent that a freezer door was blown 35 feet through the rear of the home. Fire officials also said the explosion caused by a marijuana processor using highly flammable butane to manufacture the drug.

No one was in the home at the time of the explosion, but Fouts said marijuana growing is “a clear and present danger anywhere.”

The Fire Department reported 16 similar incidents of explosion in Michigan from marijuana growth in homes.

Fouts said he began developing the new ordinance before the Warren explosion on Harold Avenue.

“I was contacted by residents who said marijuana-growing homes in Warren were causing offensive odors and heavy traffic in their neighborhoods,” said Fouts. “That’s why the ordinance includes provisions that mandate a filtration apparatus to its ventilation and exhaust system.”

Fouts said this provision confines “the odors to the interior of the building.”

Other provisions of Fouts’ proposed ordinance includes:

- Medical marijuana shall not be grown, cultivated, and stored other than in manufacturing districts
- Occurs on property that is occupied by a qualifying patient as his or her principal residence
- If a room with windows is utilized for growing or cultivating medical marijuana, any lighting methods that exceed usual

residential periods between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. shall employ shielding methods

Fouts said provision would prevent “ambient light that would create a distraction to nearby neighborhoods.”

Any resident who wants to grow marijuana would have to register with the city’s Building and Safety Inspections Division and receive approval after submitting a plan, including energy usage and heat levels in the growing room.

Fouts said growing marijuana without registration and inspection could result in a possible misdemeanor penalty up to a 90-day jail sentence or a \$500 fine or both said Fouts. “We mean business with this ordinance,” said Fouts. “It’s a zero tolerance matter because it affects the quality of life of our residents.”

Fouts said other provisions are:

- The qualifying patient, or his or her primary caregiver, shall not distribute, transfer or sell the medical marijuana to another person from the qualifying patient’s residence, and no person shall be allowed access to medical marijuana on a qualifying patient’s property other than the qualifying patient and his or her primary caregiver.
- Restrictions on the medical marijuana transport or possession in a vehicle (in a locked case)

Fouts called on state legislators to use his proposed ordinance as a “guide” for legislation that controls this problem throughout the state.

“State officials dropped the ball on the growth of medical marijuana,” said Fouts. “Unfortunately, the problem is growing because, instead of pot for patients, it is becoming pot for profit.”