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Have a news story or a

November 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the smoke clears in California from the North Bay fires, our headlines in San Francisco this week read "Smoke Yet to Clear for Pot Rules." As we count down to January 1, 2018, (when recreational adult use marijuana will become legal in our state) I wonder if cities, including ours, will be ready? While the voters passed Proposition 64 in November 2016 to legalize the sales and distribution of cannabis, local operators will need permissions to apply for a state license to legally operate.



City councils across the state have been debating what local regulations should be positioned in time for the new year. Where should these new dispensaries be located and how far apart should they be to avoid saturation in any one neighborhood? State law says that they need to be located a safe distance from schools, but what about child care centers? And since cannabis consumption is illegal at the federal level, operators must do business strictly in cash. How do cities then collect permit fees or taxes? How do they ensure that these businesses do not become magnets for crime?

What should BIDs be concerned about when proposals to open dispensaries in their districts come before them? Santa Monica, for example, is not yet ready to support local legislation because they need more time to approve regulations, including appropriate storefront appearances. Downtown San Luis Obispo is concerned about the environment that these dispensaries will create in their college town if users decide to light up in public because no indoor facilities are available. Here in Union Square, safety is our number one concern, and ensuring that these new businesses operate responsibly with proper security measures in place.

While some Chambers of Commerce are saying "Yes we Cannabis!" because there is an opportunity for green tourism and money to be made, there is much for BIDs to still consider while ensuring our communities are safe and welcoming for everyone. As always, I welcome your thoughts on this hot topic.

Sincerely,

Karin Flood
Executive Director
Union Square BID
karin@unionsquarebid.com

SAVE THE DATE

Join Walnut Creek Downtown, California Downtown Association and IDA for the [West Coast Urban District Forum](#) March 13-15, 2018!

project you'd like to highlight in the CDA *District Digest*?

[E-mail us today!](#)

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R Street Sacramento Partnership
Riverside Downtown Partnership
San Jose Downtown Association
San Luis Obispo Downtown Association
South Park BID
The Downtown Burbank Partnership
The Placemaking Group
The River District
Tracy City Center Association



Master talks and breakout sessions will explore how downtowns serve as economic development resources beyond city boundaries, and the role social media plays in encouraging community engagement. Experts will share best practices on enhancing downtown quality of life and cultivating

the next generation of leaders. More details and registration information coming soon.

SPONSORSHIP



We look forward to seeing you all at the West Coast Urban District Forum in Walnut Creek, March 13-15, 2018. Kathy Hemmenway, her team, and the planning committee are working hard to develop interesting, relevant content and great networking events.

On the fundraising side, our goal is to help companies expand their business by introducing them to other districts. Your organization can contribute and support the efforts by passing along the [sponsorship packet](#) to your vendors. By supporting the conference, you will help enable CDA's budget to include legislative activities in 2018. Please consider stepping up as a sponsor and spreading the opportunity to your contacts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karin Flood

CDA POLICY CORNER

Public Safety Reform Ballot Measure Draws Attention from CDA

Late last month the "California Public Safety Partnership", which includes law enforcement, prosecutors and crime victims groups, filed a statewide ballot initiative to reverse some of the elements of Proposition 47, which was approved by voters in 2014 and reduced some crimes considered "non-violent" from a felony to a misdemeanor. The initiative would seek to prevent the early release of child traffickers and other serious and violent offenders and reinstate DNA collection upon conviction for certain crimes. Most relevant to members of the California Downtown Association, the ballot measure would make repeat offenders eligible for felony prosecution when convicted of a third property theft valued at \$250 or more - making serial theft a felony.

In 2014, the monetary value that triggered a felony grand theft charge was raised from \$450 to \$950. In each case, this amount is per incident, not an aggregated amount. As such, current law has incentivized career criminals to take advantage of criminal justice reforms meant to prevent low-level offenders from receiving lengthy jail sentences. Those committing crimes find it possible to steal up to \$950 with little concern for the limited consequences (misdemeanor convictions carry little, if any, incarceration time), which are greatly outweighed by the potential financial gain of recurring thefts.

This year, CDA supported Assembly Bill 1326 (Cooper, D - Elk Grove), which would have aggregated the monetary value of property stolen by an individual and apply stricter penalties if the total value of multiple thefts exceeded \$950 within a 12-month period. Unfortunately, the bill was shelved earlier this year.

Since the enactment of Proposition 47 in 2014 - Reduced Penalties for Some Crimes Initiative - businesses have experienced a significant increase in theft incidents. Many report twice the amount of incidents, and the value of merchandise taken has also increased. This is a substantial financial burden to businesses, has lowered employee morale, and has raised serious safety concerns within our downtowns.

The initiative sponsors need to collect roughly 370,000 valid signatures from eligible voters by April, 2018 in order to qualify the initiative for the November 2018 election. The California Downtown Association Board will continue to monitor the initiative effort and may consider taking a position if the measure qualifies.

Jason Bryant
Bryant Government Affairs

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November 2017 Legislative Update

CDA'S NEW WEBSITE

Have you filled out the membership directory form yet?

CDA is building a new website and we are adding a membership directory! In order to include your organization accurately, please take minute to fill out this [directory form](#). Thank you!

IN THE NEWS

SF to Transform Car-free Stretch of Powell Street into Pedestrian Promenade

San Francisco Examiner

A two-block stretch of Powell Street may soon become a Paris-style public promenade, replete with increased lighting, planters...

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Sacramento County Approves \$44 Million for Homeless Mental Health and Drug Abuse Services

The Sacramento Bee

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday unanimously approved \$44 million over the next three years for...

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From Coffee Shops to Churches, SurveyLA Documents the Diversity of Los Angeles

Preservation Magazine

You know the usual architectural icons in Los Angeles: The Art Deco, Mission Revival, and Spanish Colonial Revival-style Union...

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Winter Homeless Shelters Open Doors in Oakland

East Bay Times

As two of Oakland's seasonal shelters for homeless people opened their doors Monday, staff members say they're ready to meet needs.

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SF City Administrator Naomi Kelly's Vision of a Resilient San Francisco

The Planning Report

San Francisco City Administrator Naomi Kelly is the highest-ranking non-elected official in the City and County, overseeing a broad ...

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Push to Modernize Sacramento's Parking Coincides with Rise in Wrongly Issued Tickets

Sacramento Business Journal

In mid-October, Jackie Cole pulled her Mitsubishi Montero into a spot near J and 12th streets in downtown Sacramento to view an...

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Tax Proposals Threaten Lower-Income Housing

The New York Times

The Republican tax bill making its way through Congress will hit California taxpayers harder than much of the country.

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San Diego's Only Commercial Marijuana Grower to Greatly Expand Production

The San Diego Union-Tribune

San Diego County's only licensed commercial marijuana grower plans to at least double production, largely to help meet demand...

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Google, San Jose Could Reach Downtown Property Price Deals for Transit Village by Year's End, Mayor Says

The Mercury News

Google and San Jose may agree by year's end on prices for government properties that would provide large chunks of...

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The Morality of the City

CityLab

For those monitoring the headlines, the Age of Morality can hardly seem a likely title historians will use for our current period.

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House Tax Bill Threatens Key Community Development Tools

Nonprofit Quarterly

The House tax bill has many layers. Earlier this week, NPQ published an analysis by David Thompson from the National Council of...

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Transforming a Bay Area Brownfield Into a Green Jewel

Next City

The city of Richmond is emerging as a leader in sustainable redevelopment and in the process, preserving its past.

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Amid Booming Economy, Homelessness Soars on US West Coast

Associated Press

In a park in the middle of a leafy, bohemian neighborhood where homes list for close to \$1 million, a tractor's massive claw scooped...

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Please forward to your team and ask them to [sign up!](#)



CDA District Digest Leadership

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Allison Shashok
Marketing & Communications Manager, IDA

Do you have your ear to the ground when it comes to the latest downtown news in your region?
To submit news to be considered for inclusion in the newsletter, please contact Allison Shashok at allison@downtown.org.

CDA District Digest

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