

Vote NO on Pot Shops in Manhattan Beach. They call it “cannabis.” We call it pot. Pot shops opening in other California cities have led to an increase in robberies, smash and grabs, shootings and deaths in the last year alone in California. Crime from pot shops extends out into the neighborhoods around these businesses.

Since legalization, data have shown that tighter local controls help protect our youth. Communities that sell legal marijuana increase the perception of safety by young people which increases their intention to use. Pot products today are NOT the weed from Woodstock days, or even the weed many thought we voted for with Prop 64. New pot products are up to 30 times stronger.

Marijuana-impaired drivers are more likely to kill pedestrians and joggers than alcohol-impaired drivers. We already have a heartbreaking homeless problem; it will only get worse by normalizing new high-potency THC products. This is bad for Manhattan Beach and good for the cannabis businesses who are funding it.

This effort has been an abuse of the initiative process. This petition didn't arise from a significant group of Manhattan Beach residents. Instead, the pot-shop businesses found work-arounds to be their petitioners. This is not the intention of the initiative process. It was reported their signature gatherers were caught lying to residents in order to collect signatures and help sway the vote.

Two thirds of of California cities have a ban on pot shops. MB should keep OUR ban on retail pot shops. Let's prevent crime, as well as protect our children and at-risk adults. Vote NO on retail pot shops in Manhattan Beach.

Steve Napolitano, Mayor, City of Manhattan Beach

Suzanne Hadley, CouncilMember, City of Manhattan Beach

Joe Franklin, CouncilMember, City of Manhattan Beach

Hildy Stern, CouncilMember, City of Manhattan Beach