



**GARDINER CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**



<b>Meeting Date</b>	09/16/2020	<b>Department</b>	City Council
<b>Agenda Item</b>	4.a Presentation from Healthy Maine Communities Tobacco Prevention Coordinator April Hughs/Gardiner Police Officer Quintano Regarding Alcohol and Marijuana Effects		
<b>Est. Cost</b>	n/a		

**Background Information**

This agenda item is a presentation from Healthy Maine Communities Tobacco Prevention Coordinator April Hughes and Gardiner Police Officer Quintano regarding alcohol and marijuana effects on individuals and children.

The will be presenting data on use, context of use, accessibility, products of harm, and impaired driving accident data as a few points.

<b>Requested Action</b>	n/a
<b>City Manager and/or Finance Review</b>	n/a
<b>Council Vote/ Action Taken</b>	
<b>Departmental Follow-Up</b>	

<b>City Clerk Use Only</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading _____	Advertised _____	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> _____
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading _____	Advertised _____ w/in 15 Days	
	Final to Dept _____	Updated Book _____	Online _____



**The Healing Community MEDCo**

40 Lisbon Street & 741 Main Street  
Lewiston, Maine 04240  
alex@thcMEDCo.com

8 September 2020

Gardiner Planning Board  
Gardiner City Hall  
6 Church Street  
Gardiner, ME 04345

Dear City of Gardiner Mayor, Planning Board Members, and City Council Members,

Thank you for your time today. My name is Alex McMahan, I live at 40 Lisbon St in Lewiston, I operate several businesses in the Lewiston area, and recently spoke with the Gardiner City Council on August 8th regarding a lease that my company, The Healing Community MEDCo, holds for the property located at 189 Water street in Gardiner for the purpose of opening a retail cannabis storefront.

About a year and a half ago, Lewiston was actually in a very similar scenario that Gardiner is in today. Cannabis stores were popping up, and there was concern about too many opening up in the city in too short of a period of time. We have worked very closely with the city since then, even becoming friends with many of the good folks in the Planning Department. Oftentimes we are even called on for simple advice or insight on cannabis issues unrelated to us. We look forward to establishing a pleasant working relationship with the City of Gardiner as well. We are familiar with the goals of the City, and believe we may even be an asset in achieving some of these goals.

Lewiston amended the City Ordinance to allow for pre-existing medical storefronts to be considered legally nonconforming by the City while they were considering adding more conditions to their ordinance. With the proposed license cap in Gardiner, we would like to request that all medical storefronts that are established before the cap be allowed to convert to adult use, thereby avoiding the risk of being affected by the proposed cap.

We are willing to be a resource for Gardiner Area Thrives and work with them to reduce the impact of the cannabis industry on our youth in any ways we can. We agree that this is an extremely important topic, and data from Colorado and other cannabis-legal states indicate that the best path towards eliminating the use of cannabis by minors is simply to take the reins from the black



market, and put them in the hands of regulated, licensed responsible business owners, who will be checking IDs 100% of the time, with our business licenses on the line.

To date, 33 states and the District of Columbia have passed medical marijuana laws (MMLs), while 10 states and the District of Columbia have legalized the recreational use of marijuana. University-led studies<sup>1</sup> among cannabis-legal states found no effect on teen use following legalization for medical purposes, and evidence of a possible reduction in use following legalization for recreational purposes.”

“*Community*” is quite literally our middle name. We look forward to working with the City of Gardiner to become an active part of the community for many years to come. We are regional leaders of the *LA Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce*, and teamed up with the Chamber to operate “The Healing Community Food Challenge;” a challenge we issued to other local businesses at the onset of covid to help us feed those whose lives were interrupted by the virus. We raised nearly \$15,000 with this food drive, all of which went directly to families in need, whose information was provided to us by United Way.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. We are very much looking forward to joining Gardiner’s downtown thriving business community.

Best Regards,



**Alex McMahan**

Founding Partner & Operating Partner  
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<sup>1</sup> Association of Marijuana Laws With Teen Marijuana Use: New Estimates From the Youth Risk Behavior Surveys  
[https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2737637?guestAccessKey=5e4e41eb-ec96-4641-86f9-b5c89cc7cc48&utm\\_source=For The Media&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=ftm links&utm\\_content=tf1&utm\\_term=070819](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2737637?guestAccessKey=5e4e41eb-ec96-4641-86f9-b5c89cc7cc48&utm_source=For%20The%20Media&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=ftm%20links&utm_content=tf1&utm_term=070819)