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## Bringing Medical Marijuana to the County

I, along with Supervisor Damon Connolly, sit on the County's Medical Marijuana Sub-Committee. We were appointed in January to look into the possibility of the County regulating medical marijuana dispensaries in unincorporated areas of Marin. Our committee researched ordinances implemented in local jurisdictions similar to Marin and visited dispensaries in Sebastopol and Sonoma County.

On June 9<sup>th</sup> we held a Board of Supervisors workshop to review the draft ordinance our sub-committee authored. Some key provisions of the draft ordinance are: a business license model rather than a land use permit; a RFP process in order to select an applicant that is patient focused with a best practices approach to operating a medical model dispensary; allowing up to three dispensaries in commercially zoned parcels based on three geographic zones in unincorporated Marin; a 600 foot buffer from schools and youth oriented facilities and extensive requirements for on-site security to mitigate any impacts on surrounding neighborhoods.

The Board of Supervisors chambers were packed at the workshop, and we heard from almost 50 speakers during public open time. Based on input from the public and members of the Board of Supervisors, our sub-committee plans to research issues that came up at the workshop such as: a 1000 foot buffer from schools and youth oriented facilities, looking at Safe Routes to School maps, a two-tiered process for applicants, and delivery service. There was consensus on moving forward with a medical marijuana ordinance and our sub-committee will work to refine the draft ordinance. If you would like more information on this issue and/or would like to receive updates on future meeting dates and draft ordinances, please visit the County's medical marijuana webpage at: <http://www.marincounty.org/main/marijuana-dispensary-ordinance>

This summer, I hope you visit the 2015 Marin County Fair, themed *On With the Show*. The fair will run July 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 11pm. As many of you know the fair has something to offer for just about everyone - from leading-edge exhibits, hands-on family activities, popular concerts, thrilling rides, adorable farm animals, and spectacular fireworks every night at 9:30pm.

Be sure to check out the competitive exhibits, which are always a highlight! There are several new competitions this year including: selfies, baby stroller decorating, finger painting, classic cake baking contest, and many more.

This year children's day is Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> when kids 12 and under are admitted for free. New this year is the ability to purchase tickets on-line at a 25% savings off the regular ticket price, visit: [www.marinfair.org/2015](http://www.marinfair.org/2015)

The Marin County Fair is celebrated as the greenest county fair on earth. With a solar-powered carousel and solar-powered stage; over 90% waste diversion level with composting and recycling; water conservation; energy generation through a 750-panel rooftop array; and energy efficiency through modern HVAC units (both leading to a 57% reduction in electrical use in 5 years), the County is proud to conserve the environment while providing family fun for Marin County residents and beyond.

For more information and to view a complete list of concerts, exhibits, and activities, visit the Marin County Fair website at [www.marinfair.org/2015](http://www.marinfair.org/2015)

As always, my door is open to you. I welcome your suggestions and ideas. You can reach me at: (415) 473-7331 or [jarnold@marincounty.org](mailto:jarnold@marincounty.org).