



**Keith Johnson**  
County Administrator

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**FRANKLIN COUNTY**  
**WASHINGTON**

**BRAD PECK**  
District 1

**ROCKY MULLEN**  
District 2

**CLINT DIDIER**  
District 3

September 20, 2022

To: City of Pasco City Council

Re: Retail Marijuana Store in Downtown Pasco

Dear Mayor and City Council:

It is our understanding the Pasco City Council is considering the approval of a retail recreational marijuana store in downtown Pasco. We are writing to state our opposition to the approval of this establishment, as we do not believe it is in the best interest of the citizens of Franklin County.

As you are undoubtedly aware, Franklin County adopted ordinance 4-2017 on May 31, 2017 that amended Franklin County Code Section 17.66.025 regarding prohibited land uses within the unincorporated areas of Franklin County. That code provision expressly prohibits "the establishment, location, permitting, licensing, or operation of marijuana production, processing and/or retailing to the extent authorized by Initiative 502 or applicable law. While we recognize this code provision is not binding on areas within the City of Pasco's incorporated boundaries, we believe it to be the best public policy for all areas within Franklin County.

While recreational marijuana has been legalized in the State of Washington, local governments maintain authority to approve or deny retail sales in their jurisdictions. It is our opinion that recreational marijuana sales and usage has negative effects on the local area, particularly in minority populations. We believe approval of this application will create socio-economic damage in both the immediate area and more broadly across the City of Pasco and across Franklin County. Locating such an enterprise close to homeless shelters and services when there are currently sufficient retail shops in outlying areas of the region is not good public policy.

We respectfully appreciate the separate authority of the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. As a general rule we typically avoid weighing in on the matters that only affect one jurisdiction. In this matter however, we believe this rises to the level of a significant issue across all jurisdictions and hereby state our opposition to the approval of any permits for retail marijuana shops located anywhere within Franklin County.

Sincerely,

Board of Commissioners  
Franklin County, Washington

Clint Didier

Rocky Mullen

Brad Peck