

Boulder County commissioners to hear, act on marijuana proposals

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If You Go

What: Boulder County commissioners will hold three days of meetings on marijuana issues.

• **3:15 p.m. Tuesday:** The commissioners will hold a public hearing and may take action on limiting the numbers of plants that a legally eligible recreational or medical marijuana user can grow in his or her home, in unincorporated Boulder County.

• **2 p.m. Wednesday:** The commissioners will hold a public hearing on an application to allow a retail marijuana establishment at 6924 N. 79th St., Niwot.

• **11 a.m. Thursday:** The commissioners are scheduled to decide whether to approve or deny the Niwot pot-shop application. No further public testimony beyond that presented on Wednesday will be taken.

Where: All three meetings — Tuesday's and Wednesday's public hearings and Thursday's session — will be in the commissioners' third-floor hearing room in the Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl St., Boulder.

Further information: Staff memos and other information about each day's items are available online through links on the commissioners' public meetings website, bit.ly/1TTpc9q

Niwot resident Tina Eden said she intends to tell Boulder County commissioners Wednesday that "I don't like the idea" of permitting a retail recreational marijuana business to open in her town.

Eden, who lives on the 8100 block of Centrebridge Drive, said on Friday that most Colorado cities and towns "have prohibited any marijuana sales" within their municipal limits, "whether it be recreational or retail."

Since a majority of Niwot is unincorporated, though, "the county makes decisions for us," Eden said, and she and many of her neighbors will be appealing to the commissioners to ignore Boulder County's Planning Commission members' unanimous April 20 recommendation to allow property owner Ernie Craumer and his Colorado Real Estate Holdings LLC to put a pot shop in a now-unoccupied building at [6924 N. 79th St.](#)

Dia Kline, who said she lives in the Countryside Condominiums — "right behind" where Craumer wants to put the retail marijuana facility — said she already has to cope with the noise, loud music, odors, inebriated customers and other disturbances she charged can be blamed on another nearby business, the Bootstrap Brewing Co. at 6778 N. 79th.

Kline, who also has signed up to testify at the commissioners' Wednesday hearing, said she doesn't want to also have to cope with problems she fears a marijuana dispensary would bring to the neighborhood — a business she said wouldn't promote the welfare or interests of Niwot's current and future residents and landowners.

Diane Zimmermann, on the other hand, said she'll be telling commissioners of her support for Craumer's marijuana-shop proposal and how it would benefit the community.

Zimmermann, who also testified at April's Planning Commission meeting, said she's gotten to know Craumer and his family and that "they are good people. They aren't coming here to sweep up a quick fortune and not be a part of the community."

Zimmermann, who lives on the 7100 block of Gold Nugget Drive, said she thought such a marijuana business "fits in very well with the community," if the county allows it.

Eden, Kline and Zimmermann are three of the 30 people who as of Friday had signed up in advance to speak at the Board of County Commissioners' Wednesday afternoon to Wednesday night hearing on Craumer's proposed special-use and development plan for the property.

As was the case at the Planning Commission's hearing, most of Wednesday's speakers are expected to oppose the application — although Zimmerman said, "I know I'm speaking for people who are afraid to speak up in support" publicly.

The Land Use Department staff has concluded — and the planning commissioners agreed — that the proposed marijuana shop fits county requirements, standards and criteria for locating such a business there.

But No Pot In Niwot spokesman Steve Romano, a resident of the 6600 block of Apache Court who's also signed up to testify, said he and others in that organization believe the county staff has misinterpreted the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan's guidance for the kinds of businesses the county can allow in Niwot.

Wednesday is just one of three days in which the Board of County Commissioners will be considering marijuana issues during the coming week.

On Tuesday afternoon, the commissioners will hold a public hearing and consider adoption of new Land Use Code restrictions about cultivating or processing marijuana inside residences in unincorporated Boulder County — including a proposed six-plant limit for growing recreational or medical marijuana inside a single-family home or an apartment, duplex, triplex or condominium unit.

On Thursday morning — the day after the Niwot pot-shop hearing — the commissioners are to consider whether to permit the proposed marijuana business to locate at the North 79th Street address.

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