

Marijuana Talking Points

1. California's police chiefs protect over 78% of Californians. We take our responsibility very, very seriously.
2. The legalization of marijuana will dramatically increase the public safety challenges we face.
3. Proponents would have you believe otherwise, but we all know that's not true.
4. The organized criminal combines who are engaged in marijuana cultivation and distribution will not meekly go away if AB 390 passes, they will become stronger. We know this based on what has happened elsewhere. It is naïve to think that the major drug cartels who control cultivation in California will meekly go away. Instead, they will either use "fronts" to apply for a Cultivator's license, or because AB 390 reduces the fine for illegal growing of marijuana to only \$ 100, keep doing what they have been doing. In either case, they are not going away.
5. When the Netherlands legalized so-called marijuana cafes in the 1980's there were only three organized crime operations in that country. Today, there are over 90 as organized criminal enterprises from all over Europe descended on the Netherlands.
6. Here in California, we can expect an increase in auto-burglaries, robberies and residential burglaries. Again, we know this because that's what happened in Alaska when they decriminalized drugs from 1978 to 1990. During that period, there was a dramatic increase in those crimes as users committed crimes to get money to buy marijuana. It's one of the reasons Alaska abandoned this failed experiment.
7. Highway fatalities will rise if marijuana is legalized. Right now, driving under the influence of drugs kills 8000 people a year. Under this bill it will be possible to buy marijuana in every liquor in the state, in virtually every supermarket chain. That kind of availability will only exponentially increase highway fatalities.
8. As police chiefs, we feel that any law that would strengthen the hand of organized crime, increase crime and increase highway fatalities is somehow not a very good idea.
9. President Obama understands that marijuana should not be legalized, Dr. Sanjay Gupta at CNN understands that marijuana should not be legalized. Our job is to make the Legislature understand the same thing.