

Matthew Ceballos

From: diana lejins <dianalejins@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 29, 2015 9:10 PM
To: Carolyn Hill; Poonam Davis; Robert Luna
Cc: Diana Lejins
Subject: DC Police Chief: Mj smokers aren't cop killers

Please post, distribute and acknowledge receipt--Mj Task Force

D.C. police chief: ‘Marijuana smokers are not going to attack and kill a cop’

PUBLISHED: MAR 2, 2015,

By **Ricardo Baca**, *The Cannabist Staff*

Of the two American localities to recently implement the full-on legalization of recreational marijuana — **Washington D.C.** and **Alaska** — the nation’s capital has had the bumpier road. And now the police chief of the District of Columbia is boldly coming out saying that “alcohol is a much bigger problem” than marijuana.

Going online with legalization

Done and done: Marijuana now legal in DC, despite threats from Congress

Editorial: Pot fight more evidence DC trapped by whims of Congress

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Newly legal: Alaska on Tuesday became the third U.S. state to legalize the recreational use of marijuana

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D.C. police chief Cathy Lanier stood by district mayor Muriel Bowser in the last few weeks as members of Congress threatened jail time to Bowser and others should they implement the voter approved marijuana legalization. Bowser didn’t back down to the threats of Congress, which has

final say over the district's laws. And today Bowser is working from the mayor's office, not jail, while D.C. finds itself in the early days of legal weed.

And what about district police chief Lanier? She said alcohol is a bigger concern to public safety and the well-being of her officers than cannabis.

"Marijuana smokers are not going to attack and kill a cop," Lanier said while speaking at the American News Women's Club, **per The Daily Beast**. "They just want to get a bag of chips and relax. Alcohol is a much bigger problem."

Lanier did mention her concerns about the possible health issues of smoking pot, as opposed to vaporizing and edibles.

"But I'm not policing the city as a mom," she said, "I'm policing it as the police chief — and 70 percent of the public supported this."

Lanier went on to talk about how D.C. cops weren't fans of pot arrests. From The Daily Beast article:

The police hate marijuana possession arrests, Lanier said, they'd just as soon dump the stuff down the sewer than handle all the paperwork and the court appearance, knowing it won't stop anyone from smoking marijuana. "All those arrests do is make people hate us," she said. After last year's relaxing of the law, marijuana arrests are way down, and according to a study by The Washington Times, 70 percent of those slapped with the \$25 fine for public smoking or possession ignore the citation.

Lanier isn't alone. President Barack Obama famously **told The New Yorker** in 2014: "I don't think (pot) is more dangerous than alcohol." An important recent study in Scientific Reports showed that cannabis is **114 times less deadly than alcohol**. A Washington Post analysis of federal drug and hospital data proved that, on a per-user basis, **marijuana causes fewer ER trips than alcohol, pharmaceuticals and other drugs**.

Working to make the World a better place,

diana 

Matthew Ceballos

From: diana lejins <dianalejins@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2015 3:18 PM
To: Carolyn Hill; Poonam Davis
Cc: Nick Morrow; Robert Luna; Richard Conant
Subject: Washington DC Police Chief on Marijuana

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Washington, DC police chief on marijuana: "All those arrests do is make people hate us"

Updated by [German Lopez](#) on March 3, 2015, [@germanlopez](#) german.lopez@vox.com



Washington, DC, Police Chief Cathy Lanier. Win McNamee/Getty Images

Washington, DC Police Chief Cathy Lanier seems fairly enthusiastic about [marijuana legalization](#) in the District, even decrying the past system of prohibition and how it tarnished community relations with police.

Lanier told the American News Women's Club last Wednesday, according to the [Daily Beast](#), "All those [marijuana] arrests do is make people hate us." She added, "Marijuana smokers are not going to attack and kill a cop. They just want to get a bag of chips and relax. Alcohol is a much bigger problem."

The police chief clarified her comments to emphasize that she believes marijuana isn't healthy. "But I'm not policing the city as a mom," she said. "I'm policing it as the police chief — and 70 percent of the public supported this."

"Marijuana smokers are not going to attack and kill a cop"

Lanier is making a nuanced but firmly supportive legalization argument. She said that marijuana isn't always healthy for users. But she also acknowledged that it's a relatively benign drug in terms of public safety, and its use is so widespread and accepted that arresting people for pot can actually do more harm than good by hurting police relations with the community.

The comments are generally supported by [drug experts and a vast body of research](#). Marijuana, with its tame effects on behavior, generally [doesn't cause crime](#). But alcohol does: it's a factor in about 40 percent of violent crimes, according to the [National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence](#).

That doesn't mean marijuana is perfectly safe. "The main risk of cannabis is losing control of your cannabis intake," Mark Kleiman, a drug policy expert at UCLA, [previously said](#). "That's going to have consequences in terms of the amount of time you spend not fully functional. When that's hours per day times years, that's bad."

DC [legalized](#) the possession, growing, and gifting of marijuana last Thursday, after it enacted a voter-approved ballot initiative. The drug remains illegal at the federal level.

Law enforcement around the country haven't always been so receptive to legalization. In Colorado, where voters legalized marijuana in 2012, Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey [warned](#) of execution-style homicides as people engaged in drug-induced violent behaviors and trafficking — a point he reiterated in an interview with Vox four months after legalization began (and [crime fell](#)). Many law enforcement officials share this opinion, based on their years spent fighting drug trafficking that's often linked to violent crime.

In that context, Lanier's comments are really remarkable: not only is she supporting DC's legalization law, but she's doing so as a person who enforced criminal prohibition for years, perhaps while knowing that it wasn't the right approach.

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diana 

Matthew Ceballos

From: diana lejins <dianalejins@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 30, 2015 2:34 PM
To: Carolyn Hill; Poonam Davis
Cc: Diana Lejins; Nick Morrow; Larry King
Subject: Fw: Medical Cannabis Task Force Agenda - June 3, 2015
Attachments: 060315.mctf.agn.pdf

I just got a Legistar alert and found some of my documents filed with the last meeting. Unfortunately, most people will not look back at those docs. I would appreciate it if you could move them to be included with this upcoming meeting and sent to the TF members accordingly. It takes a great deal of my time to download and/or create these gems of information, and my intent is for them to be at least available for TF members to review. Please let me know that this has been done or if you have any questions--(562) 421-8012.

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diana 

On Saturday, May 30, 2015 2:27 PM, diana lejins <dianalejins@yahoo.com> wrote:

Thank you for including me in your email. I am very concerned that I have not seen the documents sent by me prior to and after the last meeting on 4-29-15. While the Task Force may choose not to read them, it is important that they be available in a form that they can readily access. This is why I have sent them directly in the past. How can we rectify this situation?? Please call me at (562) 421-8012 so that we can resolve the issue.

Working to make the World a better place,

diana  lejins

On Friday, May 29, 2015 5:39 PM, Carolyn Hill <Carolyn.Hill@longbeach.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon all,

Attached please find the Medical Cannabis Agenda for next week's meeting. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Carolyn Hill, CMC
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