From:	Mark Bixby <mark@bixby.org>
Sent:	Thursday, February 28, 2019 9:26 PM
To:	CITY COUNCIL; Agenda Comment
Cc:	Fikes, Cathy; CITY COUNCIL
Subject:	support for March 4th strategic objectives on broadband and cannabis

AGENDA COMMENT

Hi city council,

I support strategic planning infrastructure goal #2 to develop a Broadband Master Plan to facilitate the installation of fiber throughout the city to better facilitate broadband competition and economic development.

The existing Frontier/Spectrum wired broadband duopoly is not serving the city well. I've been a residential FiOS customer for the past 15 years, and while the network performance is great, pricing has grown increasingly punitive under Frontier to the point that I am feeling gouged.

A couple of years ago, out of frustration with Frontier's increasing prices, I allowed a cold-calling Spectrum salesperson who showed up on my doorstep one day to issue me a price quote. He said that he had to start the order entry process in order to generate a quote, but no order would actually be placed at that time. Well, he lied to my face. While I was traveling outside of the country a few weeks later, a Spectrum truck pulled up to my house expecting to install the service, but because nobody was home, they left.

I was livid at being lied to, and will NEVER have any interaction with Spectrum again. So that leaves me stuck being gouged by Frontier, who is probably headed towards bankruptcy.

I strongly support a Broadband Master Plan to build more fiber in this city to bring more connectivity choice to residents and businesses.

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I also support strategic planning financial sustainability goal #4 to hold a study session on cannabis land uses. While I support the initial baby step being taken here, I hope that one day the city will pursue nearly full Prop 64 legalization similar to Santa Ana that also includes retail medicinal/recreational sales.

Fun fact -- I actually voted AGAINST Prop 64 out of ignorance and misconception due to never having personally tried cannabis up to that point in time. 55% of HB voters voted FOR Prop 64 by a margin of 10,000 votes.

But after struggling with insomnia for decades and neuropathy for years and being dissatisfied with the efficacy and side-effects of half a dozen Big Pharma solutions for those problems, I decided to give cannabis indica edibles a try one year ago, and I've found them to be helpful for both medical problems.

My very first edible dose made me realize that the vacuum of my former inexperience had been filled by hype and hysteria which bore little resemblance to the reality of shopping for and consuming cannabis.

The Santa Ana legal/licensed retail experience is benign. The closest dispensary to me is an easy 15-20 minutes down Warner Ave. All of the dispensaries I've shopped at so far appear to be well run, generally with two security guards on the premises (one outside and one inside), and require you to show valid state ID for registration and then entry to the sales floor. There are no sketchy characters loitering around.

HB is leaving sales tax dollars on the table by not looking at retail sales. Those tax dollars are being spent in Santa Ana instead.

The only cannabis-related land uses I would NOT be in support of are on-site consumption (i.e. cannabis lounges, etc). This is based on my personal experience that edibles of therapeutic level for me are plainly too impairing for driving. It's a non-issue for me since I consume edibles at home an hour before bedtime and then sleep it off until morning, but I could see it being a big public safety issue for social on-site consumption and then people attempting to drive home afterwards.

Don't be misinformed on this subject like I was by virtue of abstinence.
A standardized 100mg package of 10mg edible doses (a small dose) will set you back maybe $15-20 for valuable perspective (10mg of indica edible for me has about the same impact as 16oz of a high-ABV stout-type craft beer).

- Mark Bixby