

Safety, Health, and Service

September 28, 2015

The Safety, Health, and Service committee met at 6:15 PM. The following committee members were present, Rob Maurer, Dan Lanzer, and Cheryl Ramos. Also in attendance were Mayor Johnson, Darrin Lautenschleger, John Zucal, Patti McKay, Sam Hitchcock, Sandy Cox, Winnie Walker, Beth Gundy, and press.

The meeting was brought about by a request from Cheryl Ramos to have Council President assign State Issue 3, the marijuana legalization effort to the Safety, Health, and Services committee. Mrs. Ramos intent was to have New Philadelphia City Council publicly oppose the issue.

Mr. Maurer opened the meeting by reading Mrs. Ramos that was sent via email to Council President Hitchcock. Mr. Maurer then asked Mrs. Ramos to elaborate further on her email. She stated the following:

Mrs. Ramos has been attending the anti-drug coalition meetings for years. Being in social work for the last 25 years, she sees the risks involved should issue 3 pass. She stated that there are a large number of organizations/boards that oppose the issue and ballot language per Cincinnati.com. She has firsthand knowledge how it affects adults and students. Brains continue to grow until age 26 and marijuana will affect this. Mrs. Ramos feels that as a legislative body, we should take a stand and oppose issue 3. It could also be a deterrent for businesses to relocate to Ohio.

Mr. Maurer asked Ramos what cities on her list have opposed issue 3. Mrs Ramos could not find any. Maurer agreed with what she is saying and her comments; however, we represent citizens of New Philadelphia on both sides of the issue. Mrs. Ramos said council has opposed other state ballot issues in the past. Maurer could only think of financial related issues that would negatively affect everyone. Maurer could not find one city in Ohio that has opposed issue 3 and one city (Cleveland) that has endorsed the issue.

Mr. Lanzer agreed with Maurer. Council shouldn't be involved and didn't feel it's necessary to endorse/oppose the issue.

Mr. Hitchcock has serious concern for people who use it recreationally. Hitchcock said that Colorado is having problems since it passed. He supports the city taking a stand.

Mr. John Zucal cited that there is plenty of evidence that it's a gateway drug that leads to other things. He does not want to see this stuff around kids.

Mr. Johnson said its wrong and needs more research. It creates a monopoly. He does not want it around his grandchildren.

Mrs. Cox wanted to know why the police, fire unions and health board have not issued opinions or taken a stance.

Mrs. Ramos stated she asked for a guest speaker and was told no. Maurer stated that he said council and the citizens can do their own research. It's in the newspaper, television, and internet daily. We are a legislative group. State issues are not what cities should be legislating.

Maurer asked if anyone wanted to take action. Mrs. Ramos made a motion to have a resolution drawn up saying that New Philadelphia City Council opposes issue. There was no second to the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35

Sincerely,

Rob Maurer
Chair