



Medical Marijuana Caregivers Association of El Dorado County

Established 2004

About Us

- ▶ Medical Marijuana Caregivers Association of El Dorado County (MMCA) incorporated in January 2004, as a nonprofit corporation to provide medical marijuana to qualified patients according to the guidance of California Senate Bill 420.
- ▶ MMCA is the first Medical Cannabis Dispensary to operate in El Dorado County, first Established 2004 in Placerville.
- ▶ As a collective, MMCA provides help and advice for the medical needs of our members, offering a safe and secure venue for our patients.
- ▶ In 2016 California voted in favor of adult use cannabis.
- ▶ In 2018 El Dorado County voted in favor of adult use cannabis.

Facts about MMCA

- ▶ One of the oldest continuously-operating medical cannabis dispensaries in California (likely in the world).
- ▶ Established business, locally-owned, in good standing.
- ▶ Licensed through the State of California Department of Cannabis Control since January 2018.
- ▶ 19 years of operation in El Dorado County with no complaints to date.
- ▶ MMCA has paid in excess of \$45,000 in cannabis taxes to El Dorado County in the last 3 year alone, and an estimated \$500,000+ in sales tax since first opening in 2004. We have also provided job opportunities for local residents.
- ▶ MMCA has helped countless patients throughout El Dorado County and the surrounding areas, including multiple generations of families. Our patients know and trust us.
- ▶ We look forward to continuing to serve our community for years to come.

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 8, 2004



Democrat photos by Joanne McCubrey
VD MRS. CLAUS wave to the crowds along the parade route in Placerville Sunday. Waving behind Rachel Jacobs, 13.

Parade tradition continues

By **JESSI MARTIN**
Staff writer

Despite fears that the show would not go on, the McIntire family successfully managed to coordinate the Placerville Christmas Parade this year running, with "Placerville's First

"Every entry showed up, and then some," Patterson said. There were veterans, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cubs and Brownies, high school marching bands, private business floats, equestrian clubs, and emergency personnel. The event raised between 1,500 and 2,000 toys for

Democrat photo by Joanne McCubrey



POT ADVOCATES — Nick Vaughn, 18, left, and his father, Matt Vaughn believe marijuana can help the sick. Matt Vaughn hopes to open a cannabis club in the area. The dog's name is Zoe.

Medical marijuana advocate aims to open club here

By **RYAN MCCARTHY**
Staff writer

The man who hopes to open the first Bay Area-style cannabis club in El Dorado County draws upon his days in Plano, Texas when his gas station was the first in the 1970s to sell beer and wine after alcohol regulations eased. "Everybody got over it," Placerville resi-

dent Matt Vaughn, 50, recalled. He was in his early 20s, a self-described longhair in North Texas, when Vaughn said he had his first round with legal restrictions. Those involved "blue laws" governing alcohol and aimed at regulating morals and conduct. Now it's medical marijuana — not beer — see **MARIJUANA**, page A-

Democrat photo by Dan Burkhardt



MMCA store front



- ▶ Welcoming comfortable setting with ample Parking (24 spots)
- ▶ Secure and well lit.
- ▶ ADA Compliant
- ▶ Dog Friendly

From the Road

3031 Alhambra Dr.



- ▶ Commercial Zone
- ▶ Low impact signage
- ▶ 15 years of operation at the same location

MMCA Patient Check-in and Sales room



- ▶ Safe and relaxed environment.
- ▶ Educational and comfortable setting.
- ▶ Mom and Pops style greet. We know our patients by name.
- ▶ Our inventory is curated for our patients.
- ▶ MMCA works really hard finding the best, safe and affordable access for our patients.

Range of Products



- ▶ CBD
- ▶ Edibles
- ▶ Tincture
- ▶ RSO
- ▶ Flower
- ▶ Etc.
- ▶ All fully compliant

Nothing in Applicant's background precludes them from owning a license

- ▶ EDCO and Staff's recommendation is based on incomplete, inaccurate, and irrelevant information about Mr. Vaughn's criminal history, which cannot form the basis of a license denial.
- ▶ The DCC has already conducted a review of Mr. Vaughn's background, using the standard LiveScan process like most other jurisdictions across the state, and determined he was eligible to own a cannabis license.
- ▶ The County is currently involved in litigation over EDSO's background check process, which violates applicants' privacy and due process rights. Depending on the outcome of this application, further litigation could follow.

State law prohibits use of expunged convictions for licensing decisions

Business and Professions Code § 480(c): “Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a person shall not be denied a license on the basis of any conviction, or on the basis of the acts underlying the conviction, that has been dismissed pursuant to Section 1203.4, 1203.4a, 1203.41, 1203.42, or 1203.425 of the Penal Code, or a comparable dismissal or expungement. An applicant who has a conviction that has been dismissed pursuant to Section 1203.4, 1203.4a, 1203.41, or 1203.42 of the Penal Code shall provide proof of the dismissal if it is not reflected on the report furnished by the Department of Justice.”

The zoning code does NOT mandate denial in this case

El Dorado Zoning Code 130.41.100(4)(G): “No Commercial Cannabis Use Permit may be issued until a background check of all owners and the Designated Local Contact is completed with review and recommendation by the Sheriff’s Office, including but not limited to criminal history, fingerprinting, and any pending charges. The applicant shall be responsible for the cost of the background check. **The County may deny an application based on the results of a background check** if the County determines that information in the background check makes it more likely than not that any amount of funding for the operation will be or was derived from illegal activity or because the criminal history or other information discovered in the background check of an owner or spouse of an owner weighs against the owner’s trustworthiness or ability to run a legal business in compliance with all regulations, including but not limited to the risk of involvement or influence by organized crime, prior convictions involving controlled substances or violent crimes, the likelihood that sales and income will not be truthfully reported, or the risk that cannabis will be illegally provided or sold to individuals under the age of 21.”

APPROVAL means...

- More local jobs
- Increased tax revenue
- Curbing the illicit market
- Continued access to medicine for many patients who trust MMCA
- Expanded access to cannabis products for responsible adult use from a well-respected vendor
- Adult use sales would be possible right away, since MMCA is an existing medical retailer (no build out required, existing customer base)
- Allowing a business that has served the community since 2004 to remain open

DENIAL means...

- Elimination of existing local jobs - increase in unemployment
- Decrease in tax revenue (MMCA currently pays cannabis taxes)
- Bolstering illicit market
- Patients would lose access to a trusted provider of medical cannabis
- Lack of access for responsible adult users who live in or visit the County
- A local, state-licensed, compliant business that has served the community for two decades would shut down

Help continue MMCA's legacy in El Dorado County and APPROVE this application.

- ▶ We ask that you APPROVE this application, which will allow MMCA to remain open and expand our offerings to serve the adult use market, which is growing as the medical market shrinks. The majority of licensed cannabis retail outlets across the state are approved for both medical and adult-use.
- ▶ Denying MMCA's application will effectively kill this local business. Financially, serving only medical patients is no longer viable. Moreover, the County is threatening to shut down even the existing licensed medical store if this application is denied.
 - ▶ Alternative route if denial is being considered—> hold application in abeyance until EDSO modifies background check process, so MMCA could continue serving medical patients
- ▶ The Planning Commission has the power to decide on its own whether a cannabis permit should be issued, and does not have to defer to EDSO or Planning Department staff. Please exercise your independence!



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