

Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council
To Third District Supervisor Dawn Rowe
at the Regular Meeting
Monday, May 10, 2021
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Resolution No. MB-MAC021

**RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING SUPPORT FOR SUPERVISOR DAWN ROWE AND THE
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT AND REQUEST ADDITIONAL
FUNDING AND PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO CODE ENFORCEMENT**

WHEREAS, the high desert has seen an increase of illegal marijuana grow operations beginning in 2019. Proposition 64 (The Adult Use of Marijuana Act) reduced the commercial cultivation of marijuana from a felony to a misdemeanor. These illegal marijuana grows exploded in 2020 and have overwhelmed our law enforcement and imperiled residents. The high desert area is considered a severely disadvantaged populated area with many residents living below the poverty threshold; and

WHEREAS, illegal marijuana grows impact each of our communities in the high desert. The explosion of these operations involve human trafficking, unpermitted construction and road grading, light pollution, drain valuable water resources, increase blight, and pollute the environment. In some instances, 40 and 80 acre parcels are being denuded of natural ground covering; and

WHEREAS, Supervisor Rowe, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (Morongo Station/Gangs and Narcotics Division– Marijuana Enforcement Team), have done an outstanding job with limited resources. Due to the fact this is a misdemeanor crime with minimal punishment the primary enforcement entity should be Code Enforcement; and

WHEREAS, There is currently minimal to no enforcement action being taken by Code Enforcement regarding these illegal marijuana grows; and

WHEREAS, we ask the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors be mindful the Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) supports Supervisor Rowe and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; and ask personnel and funds be allotted to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, we also ask the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors support any future budgetary requests for monies and or personnel for Code Enforcement as unabated construction continues; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Morongo Basin MAC is in complete support of Supervisor Rowe and the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department in their role in combating these illegal marijuana grow operations.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council at the regular meeting held this 10th day of May 2021 by the following vote:

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSENT: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

By: _____

