



City Manager's Office

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February 6, 2018

Dear Mayor :

We are members of the Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council. The Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council is comprised of middle and high school aged youth in our community. A member of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) participates in every City Council meeting and we meet regularly to discuss issues facing youth and the community.

During the 2017 Legislative Session the Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council, with the assistance of Representative Cedric Hayden, had a bill introduced that would regulate the sale of nitrous oxide to minors. YAC members testified before the House Committee on Healthcare and the Senate Judiciary Committee on behalf of HB 3030.

With the help our legislators, Representative Cedric Hayden and Senator Floyd Prozanski the bill, with nearly unanimous support, passed both chambers and it was signed by Governor Brown. The provisions of House Bill 3030 were incorporated into the Oregon Revised Statutes in ORS 475.390 and went into effect on January 1, 2018.

The legislation was a result of concerns the YAC had about the safety of fellow youth in our community after hearing the testimony of a mother at a City Council meeting about her son who nearly died in an automobile crash while under the effect of inhaling nitrous oxide. It was quite alarming to find that nearly every convenience store and the local smoke shop in Cottage Grove had nitrous oxide canisters (commonly called Whip-its) available for sale to anyone.

The canisters and the other materials needed to release the gas and inhale were readily available for youth to purchase. The price was cheap and the gas left no smell after using it making it a very attractive inhalant to abuse by youth. Nitrous oxide is being abused by youth and adults throughout the country. Inhaling the gas can result in asphyxiation, lung and throat damage from the freezing gas all for a fast effect similar to alcohol intoxication that is short lived and often leads to repetitive abuse or abuse of other drugs or alcohol to increase the effect. This then leads to abuse of other drugs or alcohol. Many retailers are well aware of the abuse and continue to sell the products with total disregard to the impact on the lives of the youth in the community.

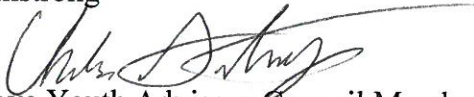
ORS 475.390 now prohibits the sale of nitrous oxide to any individuals under 18 years of age.

The abuse of nitrous oxide among youth is a serious issue and for the safety of the youth we hope that your community will take an active approach to make sure that the sale of nitrous oxide is being conducted in compliance with State Law. We know that this legislation will not end the abuse of nitrous oxide, but we hope that it will make it a little more difficult for youth to acquire the product.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact us through the Cottage Grove City Manager's office. We sincerely appreciate your efforts in helping us address this issue.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Armstrong
Co-Chair



MJ Raade
Co-Chair



Cottage Grove Youth Advisory Council Members:

