

# The Alliance for Safe Communities

Dear Mr. Karon,

Following our discussion on 3/9/12: I am forwarding the information pertinent to fire safety issues compiled by Seargents, Detectives, Leutenants, and Chiefs from various local law enforcement departments throughout the state. The issues are consistent and support that the current course of action regarding the handling of allowing medical marijuana providers to grow crops in at risk environments is not acceptable and needs attention and action. The Alliance for Safe Communities has decided to take action on various issues with the current existing loopholes in the Medical Marijuana Bill as it stands today. I discussed the issue of provider cards being issued to convicted felons with you briefly. My main concern and wish from your office is as we discussed; to simply verify that the fire risk issues exist as they are stated by myself and collective input from law enforcement specialists dealing with these issues.

These issues are as follows: Structurally tenement houses are repeatedly mentioned as an area of concern where providers are growing amounts of plants in old dwellings not able to accommodate the extreme amount of electrical power demanded on antiquated systems. Electrical boxes are overloaded and the wiring is overwhelming and complicated. The power used at some of these locations is equal to (10X) the normal usage.

The heat emitted from the solar lights is so intense that most often it is necessary for air conditioning units to be installed, often hanging from windows with 8,000-10,000 BTU's. This is also causing excessive electricity usage and overload.

There is necessity for exhaust systems in place and proper ventilation systems to be in place often lacking.

There is no current certification and or training regarding the special skills and knowledge needed to engage in the endeavor of wiring facilities or knowledge of use of various equipment needed.

There is no consideration to others who dwell, often elderly and children in tenement house situations not uncommon.

Possible areas of intervention and safety management were recommended in my meetings with law enforcement as suggestions or guidelines that could be set forth moving forward. These are recommendations and no one expects miracles to result from our collaborative efforts overnight. This is however a beginning in dialogue which is much needed and appropriately addressed moving forward that local media has neglected.

Suggestions are as follows:

An initial inspection of the building be approved by a member of the local fire department, city building inspector, and law enforcement member with photo and video evidence upon inspection as verification and proof. Inspection would include approval of the power source or grid as well as the building structure. Any structure would have to pass as adequate to engage in the enterprise of growing and harvesting of a marijuana product. All appropriate documentation, applications, building inspection tags, etc... would be issued and approved upon the initial inspection.

It should be noted that not only tenement houses are currently being used but also a former church in West Warwick, apartment complex units, and various structural settings.

Random inspections would be recommended following the initial inspection by city, fire, and local law enforcement.

A reliable data base would be recommended to be submitted by the department of health to the local and state law enforcement, as well as local fire department, and city building inspectors of whom is issued "Medical Marijuana Provider Cards" so all parties are updated as to where crops are being cultivated and who has provider cards.

A required state training and certification process assuring that an individual is aware of the skills needed and has passed a state testing procedure regarding the electrical intricacies in the process of marijuana cultivation in any facility as well as the fire risks, safety, and prevention.

I hope that the suggestions we have compiled are of value and look forward to your reply with this matter.

Confirmation that these issues are valid is all that is necessary to help begin dialogue in a more informative and educational medium for the public.

In a separate document I will confirm all law enforcement sources and contact information for your review.

I truly appreciate your support with this matter.

Respectfully and Gratefully,

Carolyn Medeiros

Executive Director : Alliance for Safe Communities [www.asc-ri.org](http://www.asc-ri.org)