

# Let's take time to get cannabis right in HMB

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## [Matters Of Opinion](#)

I recently spoke on a panel regarding cannabis at the Brews and Views forum in Half Moon Bay and appreciated hearing from many local residents who asked good questions about how the proposed cannabis ordinance might affect the community. I came away with the understanding that more dialogue with the community is needed, particularly to share views and educate those who want to understand the facts regarding cannabis.

Based on discussions with residents and the business community over the past month or so, I am convinced that the community would appreciate time to fully understand the issues. When it comes to a community's future, in my view, hasty decisions are not productive.

As a local businessman, large employer and property owner, I am offering to partner with city leaders in an open and transparent process to begin immediately after the holidays. It would be a process that I believe will result in more informed decisions, not likely to be achieved by short-term or partial solutions.

By way of background, for 25 years, I have been the owner and chairman of Rocket Farms Inc., which with our predecessor, Nurserymen's Exchange, has been a significant part of Half Moon Bay's business community as an employer and land owner for almost 50 years.

Rocket Farms is a family-owned company. We do not have outside investors. We are a traditional agricultural horticultural company. Rocket produces quality innovative floral products sold to the largest retailers in the country. We are a local owner-operator with a long-term view. We are not under any pressure to sell or make short-term decisions.

Rocket is a committed corporate citizen. Like you, I am interested in doing what is best for the community, including not passing an ordinance, if that is in the best interests of Half Moon Bay.

To better understand this newly legalized business, I have taken the past year to study cannabis, to visit many operations, and have met more than 100 entities involved in cannabis throughout the states of California, Washington, Colorado and Oregon. For both the city and private agricultural companies like Rocket, there is a lot to understand prior to a decision. Ultimately, whatever you decide for Half Moon Bay, cannabis is here to stay and will have significant economic and social impact on California and its local cities and counties.

Mayor and Council, rather than rush to meet a self-imposed year-end deadline to get something done, I respectfully suggest that we all enjoy the holidays with our families and spend the first part of the new year engaged in a productive discussion on cannabis and its impacts on the Half Moon Bay community. I believe that this effort will allow us to fully consider the different points of view. We would all

benefit from an informed, transparent and open process before making decisions, at any level and with any result.

Towards that endeavor, I am prepared to meet and work with all of you and with community groups, including hosting events at Rocket Farms and other venues to further educate on this important topic so there is a clearer level of understanding. Let's work together on this important process.

Charles Kosmont

Charles Kosmont is chairman and owner of Rocket Farms Inc., which has its headquarters in Half Moon Bay. This piece came in the form of a letter to the mayor of Half Moon Bay.