



NEWS

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Chicago Crime Commission issues warning about legalizing marijuana *Illinois can expect expansion of drug cartels*

For Immediate Release

Chicago, IL – Monday, May 4, 2009 – The Chicago Crime Commission today issued a stern warning on the implications of legalizing marijuana in Illinois. There is serious apprehension among law enforcement that the pending medical marijuana legislation will provide protection for drug cartel operations and their drug trafficking efforts.

The Department of Homeland Security has identified international drug cartels as a serious threat to the United States. Cartels are already working with gangs in the Chicago area to traffic marijuana and other drugs. “There is concern in law enforcement circles that, if passed, the Illinois medical marijuana law could legitimize cartel operations and provide cover for their trafficking efforts,” according J.R. Davis, Chairman of the Chicago Crime Commission

“Cartel members, posing as legitimate marijuana growers, would be difficult if not impossible to detect. As a consequence, they will easily expand their influence in Chicago and extend their reach into other Illinois communities,” he added.

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“The concern is so great that every major law enforcement organization in the state including the Illinois State Police, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, the Illinois Sheriffs’ Association, the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police, the Illinois Police Association Inc., as well as the International Association of Chiefs of Police has opposed this legislation,” Davis added.

I would encourage anyone contemplating support of marijuana legalization efforts to consider the public safety ramifications of their actions,” Davis concluded.

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