



## Press Release

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### **DCCED Responds to AG's Opinion on Marijuana Social Clubs**

The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development appreciates the legal clarity and guidance provided by the Attorney General regarding marijuana social clubs in the legal opinion released this afternoon.

Commissioner Chris Hladick requested the opinion from the Attorney General in response to differing interpretations of ballot measure 2, and an increasing number of marijuana businesses across the state opening without being issued a license by the Marijuana Control Board. These businesses made the claim that because they charge a membership fee, they are private businesses permitted to invite the public in to consume marijuana which is provided. They asserted that they do not need a license from that board and are not subject to its regulations. The Marijuana Control Board does not have the statutory authority to license marijuana social clubs.

The ballot measure anticipated a licensed, regulated commercial marijuana industry in Alaska. In order for the Department and the Marijuana Control Board to be able to fulfill the meaning and intent of the law, this clarification was needed. The Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office enforcement staff, in cooperation with local law enforcement, will work to address illegal consumption. Local governments may use their civil and injunctive powers to disallow the operation of illegal businesses in their cities and boroughs.

The mission of the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development is to promote a healthy economy, support strong communities, and protect consumers in Alaska. For additional information about DCCED divisions and corporate agencies, please visit [commerce.alaska.gov](http://commerce.alaska.gov).

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