Article - Citizen Petition(s): To restrict any commercial signs promoting cannabis, or marijuana, drug-related paraphernalia or products.

  **Reporter first draft due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Warrant Article - Citizen Petition: To restrict any commercial signs promoting cannabis, or marijuana, drug-related paraphernalia or products.**

Shall the Town of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_NH vote to amend zoning ordinance 271:A-7 Prohibited signs, to include: any sign that includes the marijuana plant or its likeness.

*This is a citizen petition warrant article.*

This article would advise the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Planning Board, to amend the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Zoning ordinance to add to the towns sign zoning ordinance 271:A-7 Prohibited signs to include that commercial signs in town cannot have a marijuana leaf, its likeness, or images depicting drug related paraphernalia.

This article is to prevent businesses from advertising or promoting their business with a marijuana or drug related product to raise attention to their business. An example of this would be the Re Leaf in Epping NH, next to Starbucks, that has a rainbow marijuana leaf as its logo.

As a community, the Raymond Coalition For Youth, established in 2002, has been working to reduce substance misuse amongst our youth. In the past eighteen years, youth marijuana use has dropped from 29% to 21% for past 30-day youth use. (1) We cannot afford to jeopardize this success by providing advertisement to promote or encourage use.

This type of advertising is incompatible with the rural character of our Raymond community:

**This warrant article is NOT intended to limit or restrict the use of marijuana or hemp products for medical purposes, or CBD in any form.**

**A YES vote** would add the language to the ordinance

**A NO vote** would change nothing

**Reasons why some voters might vote yes:**

*●* To limit marijuana commercialization, advertising and marketing, which normalizes and promotes substance use among youth. (1)

* They do not want to promote drug related business in our small community.

**Reasons why some voters might vote no:**

* They do not agree with restricting a business’s right to advertise.
* NH is the Live Free or Die state

**References:**

1. RAND - Adolescents Who View More Medical Marijuana Advertising Are More Likely to Use Marijuana, Have Positive Views About the Drug <https://www.rand.org/news/press/2018/05/17.html>