

Proposition 64: Montebello Operation Shield Local Evaluation Plan



City of Montebello Fire Department

Proposition 64 Public Health and Safety Grant Program- Montebello Operation Shield Local Evaluation Plan 2023-2028

Background

The City of Montebello Fire Department was funded by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Propositions 64 (the Control, Regulate and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA)) for a total of \$1,278,987 for a period of 5- Years (Term: May 1, 2023-October 31, 2028) to implement **Operation Shield**. A project that focuses on public safety, public health, community building, and the environmental impacts of the City's relatively new commercial cannabis industry.

Montebello is located in eastern Los Angeles County, has a footprint of 8.4 square miles, and a population 62,640 (U.S. Census Bureau 2022). All forms of commercial cannabis were permitted in 2018 under Montebello's Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5.90, Commercial Cannabis Activities (City of Montebello Code of Ordinances 2018). The first businesses were opened in 2019, and today there are 14 cultivation, processing, and retail businesses.

Commercial cannabis businesses are limited by zoning to industrial areas south of Olympic Boulevard, which includes the entire south half of the City. The south side is home to approximately 24,442 residents (39% of the City's population) of whom 90% identify as Hispanic or Latino (CA Healthy Places Index 2022), and who are disproportionately impacted by Prop. 64 and the City's new cannabis enterprises. The City's Fire Department/Emergency Medical Services (Fire/EMS) will serve as the Lead Public Agency, in collaboration with Montebello Police Department, Community Development Department, Code Enforcement Unit and Parks and Recreation Department.

The Montebello Fire Department operates the Community Risk Reduction Division (CRRC), which is now fully staffed [Fire Marshal (1.0 FTE), Fire Prevention Captain (1.0 FTE), Sr. Fire Inspector (1.0 FTE), Fire Inspector (1.0 FTE) and Division Administrative Assistant (1.0 FTE)]. This Division will lead the efforts in addressing several public health and safety needs and service gaps. Although Commercial Cannabis was legalized in 2019, the City has not had capacity (staffing or resources) to ensure that Police, Fire/EMS, and Code Enforcement are adequately prepared for operations in these potentially hazardous facilities, hazardous materials, including increase illegal activity, and rise in robberies targeting these commercial establishments. The staff from these Departments lack targeted training, and the agencies do not have enough of the basic supplies needed to operate in such conditions as portable gas meters to identify carbon monoxide and other lethal gases. In the face of these new risks, Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Code Enforcement also need a broader understanding of their safety needs moving forward and inter-departmental coordination and planning to ensure all emergency and non-emergency activities at an onsite incident and/or inspection are coordinated and optimized, while protecting Montebello's south-side residents, who are increasingly experiencing the impact of these challenges.

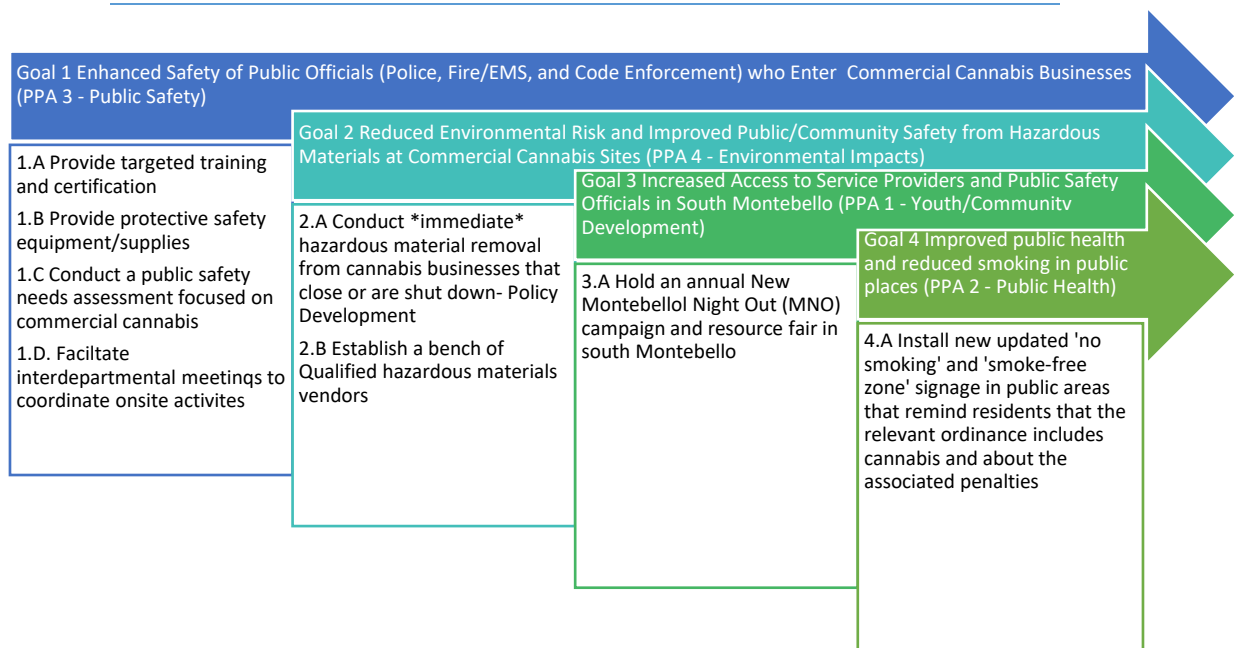
In addition, the City lacks the expertise and/or resources to manage hazardous materials removal from these businesses, putting residents and the environment at risk. The City's 'no smoking' and 'smoke-free zone' signage needs to be updated to remind residents and visitors that the relevant ordinance also applies to cannabis. Lastly, the City is severely underserved, as it lacks local social, medical and behavioral services and programs that serve youth and families. Individuals and families in need of specialized services must travel five miles or more to find a provider in another city, a hurdle that many

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health issues from illegal production as the City supports the current 14 licensed operators. The legalization and the unintended consequences will need further assessment, such as intra-department staffing, and the impact on workload. An important area of discussion will be addressing social equity within the City, as the intent is to promote small businesses, through equitable ownership and employment, without compromising the quality of life outcomes in S. Montebello, while addressing the impact of illegal substances in the community, and creating prevention efforts around illegal activities and use, especially among youth. The City will continue careful planning and comprehensive governmental controls that will provide the greatest likelihood of minimizing harm and maximizing benefits. A cannabis legalization framework should explicitly state that public health promotion and prevention, environmental safety, and protection, and effective community engagement and response, are the primary goals.

Project Goals



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The City of Montebello's **Operation Shield** will address all four (4) Project Purpose Areas (PPAs):

PPA 1 – Youth Development/Youth Prevention and Intervention

Youth community engagement and outreach via a new “Annual Montebello Night Out” Campaign and create a Wellness and Health Resource Fair in South Montebello to build trust between public safety officials and residents, and to offer opportunities to engage youth and families with specialized social service providers and develop an age and culturally appropriate Youth Cannabis Education and Prevention Awareness Campaign.

PPA 2 – Public Health- Cannabis Considerations of Secondhand Impact in Public Places

Cannabis Considerations Secondhand cannabis smoke is a health hazard. The California Environmental Protection Agency includes cannabis smoke on its list of chemicals known to cause cancer. Exposure to secondhand cannabis smoke leads to cannabinoid metabolites in bodily fluids and has caused individuals to report psychoactive effects, and its correlations to the community in South Montebello.

Operation Shield Assess any current existing Smoke-Free Local City Ordinances addressing, State law prohibits cannabis and tobacco smoking in “a public place.” (Health and Safety Code section 11362.3(a)(1)) has identified City parks as a key location for creating smoke-free zone signage for City parks and other public places.

PPA 3 – Public Safety (Police, Fire/EMS, and Code Enforcement)

Enhancing safety for Police, Fire/EMS, and Code Enforcement via certification and training, new protective safety equipment, a public safety needs assessment, and interdepartmental coordination to outline roles and responsibilities during calls at permitted commercial cannabis facilities, unlicensed and/or illegal cannabis activity.

PPA 4 – Environmental Impacts


Reducing environmental risks and improving public safety by conducting a limited number of hazardous materials removal activities and developing a bench of qualified hazardous materials vendors.

The project will also include 165 hours of sustainability planning activities each year (provided in-kind). Project partners include the City's Police Department, Code Enforcement Division, Parks and Recreation vision, as well as Adventist White Memorial Hospital (the City's primary health care provider), America's Job Center, and the Montebello-Commerce YMCA.

Fire Prevention- Discarded cigarettes are also a significant cause of outdoor fires, accounting for hundreds of millions of dollars in annual costs in environmental damage, personal property losses, firefighting expenses, and restorative efforts to include Environmental Impact in public places.

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PROGRAM COMPONENT EVALUATION

<p>PPA 1: Youth Development/Prevention/Intervention</p>	<p>Montebello (as a whole) lacks youth development, prevention, or intervention services, and there is a need to identify providers outside the City. Also, there is a lack of partnership activities between residents and public safety (Police, Fire/EMS, and Code Enforcement), and a need to focus future activities in south Montebello where all the commercial cannabis businesses are clustered.</p>
	<p>Identify a key location in S. Montebello to conduct regular community outreach events and increase public safety visibility.</p>
	<p>Develop active collaboration with Substance Use, Treatment and Prevention Service Providers, in partnership with local hospital to increase access to supportive services.</p>
	<p>Engage YMCA, and Montebello Parks and Recreation Department (Montebello School District) to increase awareness and explore funding opportunities.</p>
	<p>Key performance metrics indicating effectiveness, in addition to surveying, will be Fire and CRRD enforcement actions within a reasonable radius of schools, parks, locations offering youth services and programming, and other locations where the target demographic regularly congregates.</p>
<p>Year 2 Evidence-Based Strategies to Reduce Public Health Concerns of Marijuana (PPA 1 & PPA2)</p>	<p>Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent messaging is critical  Public Education Awareness Portal <p>“Now We Know Montebello” campaign to educate all Montebello residents about safe, legal, and responsible marijuana use.</p> <p>Key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health impacts of marijuana on youth and the particular importance of preventing use in this group; dangers of underage marijuana use Safe marijuana storage Risks of marijuana use during pregnancy and breastfeeding. Special risks with edible marijuana, particularly as it relates to serving sizes and overdose risks. Risks of secondhand marijuana smoke Harms of combining marijuana with alcohol and other substances.

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	Awareness and Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illegal to sell marijuana to someone younger than 21 years. • Part of the Marijuana education (Legal Consequences) the importance of restricting access to youth.
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PPA 2: Public Health	'No smoking' and 'smoke-free zone' signage are insufficient in the City's parks and those that exist do not remind residents that cannabis smoking is included in the City's ordinance.
Year 2	Planning: Identify and define public areas, such as parks and recreational areas in the city, with focus on S. Montebello to assess the needed signage.
Year 2	Develop Social Media Marketing Plan (with the City's Public Information Officer) (PPA 1& PPA 2)
Year 1	Engage YMCA, and Montebello Parks and Recreation Department (Montebello School District) to increase awareness and explore funding opportunities.
Year 3-Year 5	Monitor and collect data to evaluate the impact of the Social Media Marketing Plan
	Data collection and analysis to inform and shape local policy Data will be collected from various sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage existing population-based surveys by incorporating marijuana related questions. • Passive surveillance of hospital and emergency department discharges • Verdugo Dispatch 911 Emergency Response System

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PPA 3: Public Safety	Police, Fire/EMS, and Code Enforcement cannot keep the public safe if they themselves are not safe. The City's officers and officials lack of training, and thorough understanding of public safety needs in the face of commercial cannabis, onsite interdepartmental coordination, and supplies/equipment to ensure safe entry inside commercial cannabis businesses.
Year 1-Year 5	Participate in the Annual California Cannabis Control Summit -Staff Training (Public Safety)
Year 1- Year 2	Purchase of Safety Equipment
Year 1	Conduct field-based trainings for public safety (Fire and Police) at approved cannabis businesses to increase safety during emergency responses and help identify illegal operations.
Year 2	Develop a Lexipol DRAFT Policy for Permitted/Unpermitted Cannabis Programming for City of Montebello Fire Department (See Attachment A)
Year 3	Business Education Certification

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PPA 4: Environmental Impacts	While the City will seek compensation from business owners, the removal of hazardous materials needs to happen immediately.
Year 3 through Year 5	<i>Targeted Education:</i> Consider developing an educational safety training for Business Operators (Producers) to reduce risks and minimize environmental impact.
	Explore the implementation of a special fund account that will pay for these removals if and until the owner can be held responsible, especially related to illegal drug related activities.
	Develop Request for Proposal (RFP) to establish a bench of hazardous materials vendors to deepen the ability to respond quickly to ensure public and environmental safety.
	Identifying a mechanism to evaluate post-legalization activities to assess efficacy and benefit will be critical to data-informed policies that will protect the community, and also mechanism to prevent illegal activities.
Year 2- Year 3 Year 4- Adopt	Review of all City of Montebello, California - Code of Ordinances applicable or impact on Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title 5 - BUSINESS LICENSES AND REGULATIONS • Title 8- HEALTH AND SAFETY • Title 12 - STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC PLACES

Project Evaluator & Public Safety Needs Assessment and Interdepartmental Coordination

The City will hire a consultant to complete a public safety needs assessment so the City has a complete understanding of its public safety needs/gaps and assets related to operations at commercial cannabis facilities, included in Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).

Staff will utilize the project evaluation's qualitative and quantitative data to illustrate the need for and benefit of the activities. The Sustainability Planning Team will include the Department's Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, Fire Prevention Captain, Police Chief or Designee, Sr. Management Analyst, and the Project Director with assistance from the Project Assistant, in partnership with the Finance Department.

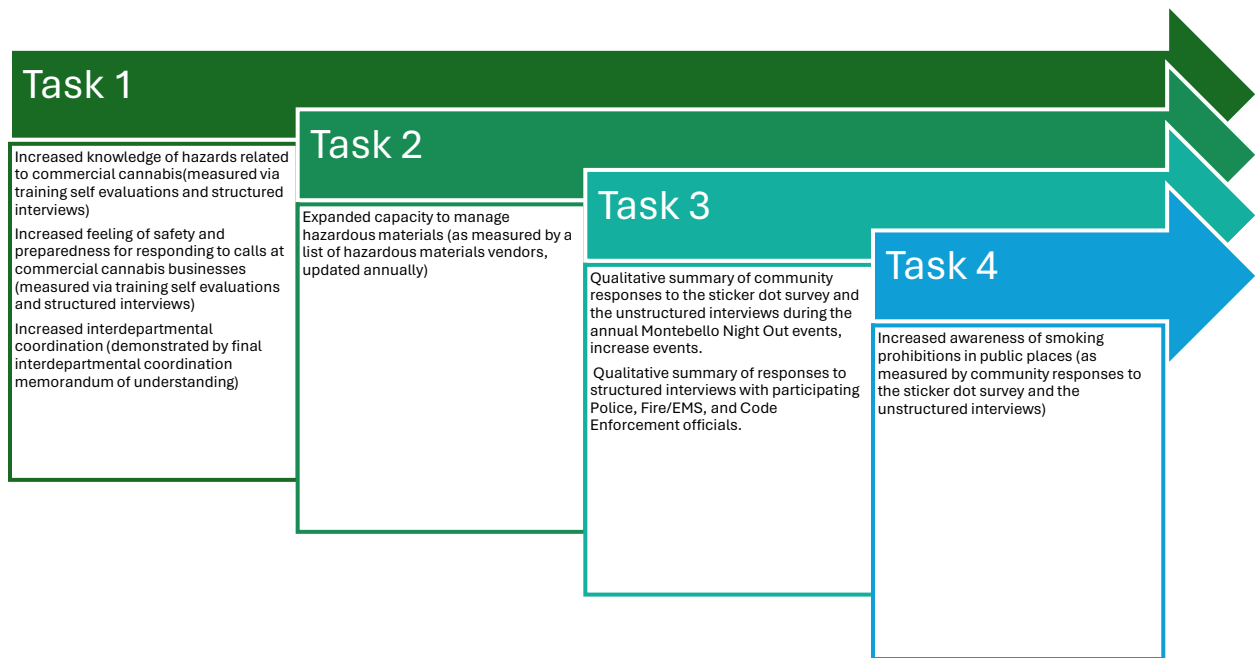
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The Project Evaluator (Local Evaluation Plan) will list specific objectives, including delayed onset of use by youth; reduced demand; reduced risky use (e.g., reduced impaired driving); decreased rates of problematic use, addiction, and concurrent risky use of other substances; reduced consumption of products with contaminants and uncertain potency; increased public safety (e.g., reduced drug-related crime); reduced discrimination, stigmatization, and marginalization of users; and realization of therapeutic benefits.

Evaluation Timeline and Reporting Quarterly Progress Reporting: CRRD will submit BSCC required Quarterly Progress Reports according to BSCC provided standards and guidelines.

2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027	2027-2028
Quarterly Reports	Quarterly Reports	Quarterly Reports	Quarterly Reports	Quarterly Reports

Prop 64- Operation Shield Outcome Measures



Prop 64- Operation Shield Task Project



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Operation Shield Project Contacts
 Lead Public Agency (LPA)
 Montebello Fire Department

<p>Project Director & Program Contact First and Last Name: Angelica Palmeros Title: Deputy Director Agency: City of Montebello Department: Montebello Fire Department 1600 West Beverly Boulevard Montebello, CA 90640-3932 Email: apalmeros@montebelloca.gov Phone: (323) 887-4540 ext. 547</p>	<p>Day-To-Day Fiscal Contact First and Last Name: Michelle Marquez Title: Senior Management Analyst- Grant and Program Coordinator Agency: City of Montebello Department: Montebello Fire Department 1600 West Beverly Boulevard Montebello, CA 90640-3932 Email: mmarquez@montebelloca.gov Phone: (323) 597-6483</p>
<p>Day-To-Day Cannabis Program Contact First and Last Name: Veronica Lara Title: Senior Administrative Assistant Department: Montebello Fire Department 1600 West Beverly Boulevard Montebello, CA 90640-3932 Email: vlara@montebelloca.gov Phone: (323) 712-9941</p>	<p>Name of Authorized Officer First and Last Name: Fernando Peláez Title: Fire Chief Agency: City of Montebello Department: Montebello Fire Department 1600 West Beverly Boulevard Montebello, CA 90640-3932 Email: fpelaez@montebelloca.gov Phone: (323) 887-1515</p>
<p>Financial Officer First and Last Name: Michael Solorza Title: Director of Finance, City of Montebello 1600 West Beverly Boulevard Montebello, CA 90640-3932 Email: msolorza@montebelloca.gov Phone: (323) 887-1412</p>	
<p>Day-To-Day Cannabis Program Contact First and Last Name: Gary T. Robinson Title: Fire Prevention Captain Department: Montebello Fire Department 1600 West Beverly Boulevard Montebello, CA 90640-3932 Email: GRobinson@montebelloca.gov Phone: (626) 247-4228</p>	

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References

<https://www.nps.gov/articles/wildfire-causes-and-evaluation.htm>

Klepeis NE, Ott WR, Switzer P. Real-time measurement of outdoor tobacco smoke particles. *J Air Waste Manag Assoc.* 2007;57(5):522–534. doi:10.3155/1047-3289.57.5.522.

Sureda X, Bilal U, Fernandez E, et al. Second-hand Smoke Exposure in Outdoor Hospitality Venues: Smoking Visibility and Assessment of Airborne Markers. *Environ Res.* 2018;165:220-227. doi: 10.1016/j.envres.2018.04.024.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC Vital Signs—Secondhand Smoke: An Unequal Danger. February 2015. Available at: www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/pdf/2015-02-vitalsigns.pdf. Accessed June 11, 2020.

Montebello Fire Department Community Risk Reduction Division, Cannabis Enforcement and Regulation Unit Lexipol **DRAFT** Policy for Permitted/Unpermitted Cannabis Programming for City of Montebello Fire Department, 2023.

MONTEBELLO MUNICIPAL CODE 1993- A Codification of the General Ordinances of the City of Montebello, California

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City of Montebello Municipal Codes

Montebello, California- Code of Ordinances/Title 12- Streets, Sidewalks and Public Places

Chapter 12.24 Conduct in Public Parks

- 12.24.010 - Regulations for conduct in public parks.
- 12.24.020 - Disposal of rubbish.
- 12.24.030 - Dangerous weapons.
- 12.24.040 - Firecrackers—Fireworks.
- 12.24.050 - Flora.
- 12.24.060 - Turf.
- 12.24.070 - Park structures.
- 12.24.080 - Animals.
- 12.24.090 - Solicitation.
- 12.24.100 - Alcoholic beverages.
- 12.24.110 - Overnight camping.
- 12.24.120 - Fires.
- 12.24.130 - Swimming.
- 12.24.140 - Vehicles.
- 12.24.150 - Park hours.
- 12.24.160 - Picnics.
- 12.24.170 - Golf.
- 12.24.180 - Model airplane flying restrictions.
- 12.24.190 - Gambling.
- 12.24.200 - Pressurized cans and other containers.
- 12.24.210 - Glue, adhesive cement and other substances.
- 12.24.220 - Unlawful assembly.
- 12.24.230 - Threatening and inflammatory language.
- 12.24.240 - Powers of park employees.

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Chapter 5.90 - COMMERCIAL CANNABIS ACTIVITIES

5.90.010 - Definitions.

5.90.020 - Commercial cannabis activities prohibited; exceptions.

5.90.030 - Relationship to other laws.

5.90.040 - Cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, distribution, delivery-only, and testing facilities.

5.90.050 - Application requirements; development agreement and conditional use permit required.

5.90.060 - Permitted zones and locations; activities prohibited.

5.90.070 - No transfer or change in ownership or location.

5.90.080 - Nonconforming uses.

5.90.090 - Fees and charges.

5.90.100 - Limitation on liability.

5.90.110 - Inspections.

5.90.120 - Records.

5.90.130 - Audits.

5.90.140 - Violations.

5.90.150 - Interpretation.

5.90.160 - Severability.