



**Matthew M. Clancy**  
Chief of Police

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Town of Duxbury*

*Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

[www.duxburypolice.org](http://www.duxburypolice.org)



**Stephen R. McDonald**  
Deputy Chief

## Duxbury Residents

A few weeks back I was asked to address the issue of the legalization of recreational marijuana as proposed in ballot question #4 in the upcoming election. At that time I prepared a statement and came before the Board of Selectmen. There is a long list of reasons that have convinced me this is a bad idea. At the top of that list is the undeniable fact that we already have a substantial addiction crisis ongoing. While I personally believe legalization of this drug should never occur, I find it nothing short of irresponsible to legalize a well documented “introductory” drug at this particular point in time. In the weeks that have followed my presentation to the selectmen we have lost another Duxbury resident to a heroin overdose and we have responded to a handful of additional non-fatal overdoses. Legalization sends the wrong message to our young people that this drug is somehow safe and in some way endorsed. In response to the current regional crisis, the Duxbury Police Department has developed a Crisis Intervention Team which deals proactively within the community to provide resources and coaching to individuals struggling with addiction and their families. While I am proud of their efforts, it saddens me to report to my community that this team is very busy and their work load is increasing daily. The officers on this team have reported to me that each individual and family being assisted have reported that the downward spiral into addiction began as adolescents and began with alcohol and marijuana use. This proposal is not about freedoms or “common sense regulation” as the proponents suggest. It is about dollars with a blatant disregard for repercussions on families and the community through increased drug use which will target young people. The proponents have attacked local police chiefs from across the state that have united against this proposal. In one case, the proponents have filed complaints against a police chief in attempts to stifle him from offering his professional opinion on the matter. I am not being paid by anyone to offer my opinion, nor are any of the other police chiefs from across the state. The proponents most certainly have a financial interest in this ill advised proposal.

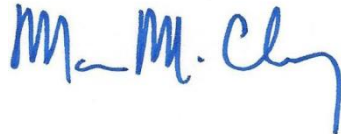
As Chief of Police in the Town of Duxbury I possess the authority and professional responsibility to opine publicly on matters of public safety which may affect my community of jurisdiction.

We are currently in a public health and public safety emergency with regard to drug addiction.

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It is my professional opinion that the legalization of recreational marijuana is not in the best interest of the Town of Duxbury and good people who inhabit this tremendous community. I urge you to reject ballot question #4.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew M. Clancy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Matthew M. Clancy  
Police Chief