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sent-mail: Need Guidance for 2010 (3 of 1003)

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Date: Thu, 20 Aug 2009 14:01:47 -0400 [02:01:47 PM EDT]**From:** Charles Ream <moksha@umich.edu> **To:** Nydia Swaby <nswaby@mpp.org>**Subject:** Need Guidance for 2010

Hi Nydia

Many highly experienced Michigan organizers are moving forward with our plan to win Lowest Law Enforcement Priority initiatives in 5 Michigan cities in the Nov. 2010 election.

At the moment these cities are Kalamazoo, Flint, Mt. Pleasant, Ferndale and Ypsilanti. (The demographics of all these places portend huge wins...which will be interpreted as a "vote for marijuana".)

We are the same folks who passed the 5 local medpot initiatives which preceded our new statewide law (which passed at 63%, winning in every single Michigan County!)

Nydia, let me tell you something that's true. Big victories in the heartland, in the Midwest, are worth far more than any sorts of victories near the two coasts. For hot shots

on the coasts the midwest is just "flyover country" - but the people in the center of the

USA have the strong impression that nothing near the two coasts represents the "real America" - and that both of these coasts could just drop into the sea without any real loss.

A victory in the middle of the country, however, is a epic piece of history - proving to any student of politics that our eventual triumph is absolutely inevitable. (It was after

our 63% Michigan victory that many State legislatures started to open up to Medical). We plan to prove our seriousness by funding all the signature gathering by ourselves and getting the issues on 5 local ballots. We will have raised and spent nearly \$15,000 by then, but will not have anything left to run any campaigns. I know that the last thing MPP wants to see is for us to get on the ballot and then lose.

I couldn't let that happen either.

Therefore we need to know something about the intentions of the MPP grant program for 2010. We will need a minimum of \$15,000 to conduct powerful winning campaigns in 5 or more Michigan cities.

I (and others) am willing to put a year of my life into this - to be sure that we will have no possibility of failure. I am willing to postpone the opening of my neurotherapy practice for this period...if we can get an idea of the intentions of MPP.

Please consider this to be a "query letter".

5 wins on one day in one Midwest state would be a historically big deal.

Please don't reject this request out of hand, please have Rob and Bruce look at it!

I am offering a lot of organizing and many victories for a very small price.

If MPP is fairly certain that they will not be able to help us then I think it is necessary for us to drop our 2010 LLEP strategy in Michigan.

This would be so very sad, lots of good people are working on this already, we have volunteers ready in each of our 5 cities. PLEASE give me some feedback after this idea has been studied.

We are really fired up to do this. We are so happy with our new law in Michigan!

We are so thankful to MPP, but we need to get to "tax and regulate" - and it is such a tiny conceptual jump from LLEP's to "tax and regulate".

Thank you very much Nydia, please explore this Michigan strategy with the top leaders and

let me know what you think about our prospects for a grant for our campaigns. Dozens of fine organizers await your response.

Thank you, Chuck Ream...Oaksterdam Professor - cooking 101

Quoting Nydia Swaby <nswaby@mpp.org>:

Guided Content Text1

Hi Chuck,

Karen forwarded your message to me to respond to your inquiry about MPP's grants program.

Due to the worsening economic conditions which have affected the nonprofit community, MPP's 2009 grants program is only accepting applications and letters of inquiry upon invitation. Unfortunately, we've already allocated our funds for this year so we won't be able to offer you an invitation for a grant to support your efforts in Michigan. We hope to reopen the grants program later in 2010, so please check back later in the year.

Best,

~Nydia

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"If (marijuana) were unknown, and bio-prospectors were suddenly to find it in some remote mountain crevice, its discovery would no doubt be hailed as a medical breakthrough. Scientists would praise its potential for treating everything from pain to cancer, and marvel at its rich pharmacopoeia - many of whose chemicals mimic vital molecules in the human body." - The Economist, "Reefer Madness, Marijuana Is Medically Useful whether Politicians Like It or Not," April 29, 2006

Begin forwarded message:

From: Karen O'Keefe <kokeefe@mpp.org>
Date: May 6, 2009 3:51:11 PM EDT (CA)
To: Charles Ream <moksha@umich.edu>
Cc: Noah Mamber <nmamber@mpp.org>
Subject: Re: Thanks... and a Question

No problem. That would be nice if you could get a bunch of wins in a row. I would be very surprised if Michigan voters would be ready for T&R in the near future. But, LLEPs and their campaigns would probably help bring people around and start the conversation (even if it takes a lot longer to build the needed support).

I'll definitely forward your email to Nydia.

Take care,
Karen

On May 5, 2009, at 10:16 AM, Charles Ream wrote:

Hi Karen
Thanks so much for forwarding my concept to Nydia.
We in Michigan will have to undertake a major fundraising job to get the signatures for 5 cities over 2 years, but then we will have no cash for the campaigns. Think of it, 5 big wins on LLEP (which will lead to the victory of "tax and regulate") for a total of \$10,000 over 2 years? We have many activists very charged up and ready to roll.
I hope MPP will see this as a deal they can't refuse. I doubt we can do this without you.
Thanks again...could you possibly forward this note to Nydia?
All the best to you. Chuck Ream

Quoting Karen O'Keefe <kokeefe@mpp.org>:

Actually, Chuck, it's my understanding that MPP's grants program is invite only and that we've already allocated the money for the year, but Nydia Swaby will get back to you directly.

Take care,
Karen

On May 4, 2009, at 6:06 PM, Charles Ream wrote:

Hi Karen and Noah
It's good news that you like LLEP's!
Very bad news that there won't be any grant money at all. I was planning that each city would have to prove itself by getting its signatures on its own - but that we might be able to get \$2000 per city to run a bit of a campaign. I'm afraid it will take all our resources to get the signatures. It is dangerous to put things on the ballot with no cash left for the campaign. (we will create a grass roots fund to help get signatures). I am very glad that you will be able to read through the Kalamazoo language to see if anything jumps out. I think their lawyer is Greg Schmid.
Thank you very much, Chuck Ream

Quoting Karen O'Keefe <kokeefe@mpp.org>:

Hi Chuck,

Passing LLEPs in Michigan sounds great (though unfortunately we don't have funding to assist).

I don't think we've reviewed the KZoo language. Unfortunately, we are pretty short staffed with a very full and ambitious load of state legislative work this year, so I don't think we'd have time for much more than reading the language itself once to see if anything jumps out. But, I'm sure we could find time for that. Please do send it along.

I've cc'd Noah, who's also an attorney and who is our legislative analyst for Michigan.

Take care,
Karen

On Apr 29, 2009, at 9:01 AM, moksha wrote:

Hi Karen
You are a great resource, you do have my full support, feel free to call on me if you ever have a task for me,
Thanks so much for checking with the central office about the LLEP strategy. I am becoming a strong believer in this idea. We could pound out big victories, one after another.
BIG QUESTION; Have you yet reviewed the petition language that Louis Stocking is proposing to use for Kalamazoo??
As you well know, if there is one mistake (or omission) in the petition nothing else matters.
We will have a major meeting in K-zoo on May 9. Chuck

Quoting Karen O'Keefe <kokeefe@mpp.org>:

Hi Chuck,

I'm glad to be a resource. Thanks for the support.

Do you mind if I check in with Rob and get back to you within a week about MI strategy? In general, I agree that LLEPs are great. I believe MPP's grants program funded most or all of the successful measures.

Take care,
Karen

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"For certain persons, the medical use of marijuana can literally mean the difference between life and death." -- Lymphoma Foundation of America, HIV Medicine Association of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and American Medical Students Association, Supreme Court amicus brief, 2004

On Apr 28, 2009, at 9:52 AM, moksha wrote:

From: moksha <moksha@umich.edu>
Date: April 28, 2009 9:40:08 AM EDT (CA)
To: kokeefe@mpp.org, org@umich.edu
Subject: Thanks... and a Question

Dear Karen
Thanks for your citation from the law about caregivers.
VERY IMPORTANT.
Does MPP think that it would be a good thing for Michigan activists to rack up big wins in 5 Michigan cities behind an LLEP (Lowest Law Enforcement Priority) initiative strategy...we did this for Medical and then it happened.
If I become ED of MINORML I want to push this strategy (to show that almost nobody cares about having pot illegal anymore). I would also like to keep Michigan "in line" with the strategic thinking of mpp. What is your basic idea about LLEP?
Thanks so much for your great work and kind attitude! Long live Rob K and mpp! Chuck Ream

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