

## Vista Cannabis Boosts Tax Revenue Significantly

In 2018, the city of Vista implemented a cannabis tax measure with the hope of addressing budgetary concerns. City leaders, facing financial uncertainty, believed that taxing cannabis sales could provide a much-needed revenue boost. Fast forward to today, and the results have exceeded their expectations.

The seven percent tax on gross cannabis sales has proven to be a significant financial boon, generating over \$7 million annually. “We went from a potential budget deficit outlook to having excess in the millions of revenue for our city,” Vista councilmember remarked, reflecting on the tax’s impact.

### **Funding Special Projects**

With the revenue stream proving more lucrative than anticipated, city officials decided to cap the amount of tax revenue allocated to the general fund at \$4 million per year. This cap has enabled Vista to channel surplus funds into various special projects, enhancing community services and infrastructure.

One notable initiative funded by the cannabis tax is a scholarship program that provides \$1,000 grants to local youth. These scholarships support participation in sports, arts, camps, summer programs, and other extracurricular activities, promoting positive development and engagement among young residents.

The funds have also been directed toward public works projects. Increased street lighting has improved safety in key areas, and a new safe parking facility for homeless individuals living in their vehicles has been established. These efforts reflect the city’s commitment to addressing diverse community needs through the unexpected windfall.

### **Impact Report: Tuna Harbor Docks Market Celebrates a Decade**

As Vista experiences fiscal rejuvenation, another local success story is unfolding across the coast. Tuna Harbor Docks Market, a cherished open-air market in San Diego, is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this weekend. The market, known for its fresh seafood and vibrant atmosphere, has become a staple for locals and visitors alike.

The market’s origins were less certain. A decade ago, local fishermen faced significant challenges in establishing the market. They initially sold their catch directly from their boats due to permitting issues on land. However, following a pivotal story that highlighted their struggle, county and Port of San Diego officials acted swiftly. Within a month, the fishermen secured the necessary permits, leading to the establishment of Tuna Harbor Docks Market.

Peter Halmay, president of the San Diego Fishermen’s Working Group, credits the media coverage with catalyzing the change. “That lit a fire under the commissioners,” Halmay said, acknowledging the role of the coverage in the market’s success.

### **Homelessness Crisis: New Challenges Persist**

In a stark contrast to these successes, San Diego County continues to grapple with a severe homelessness crisis. The Regional Task Force on Homelessness reports that, for the past 28 months, the number of people becoming homeless has outpaced those moving into permanent housing. In July alone, 1,351 individuals fell into homelessness for the first time, while 1,005 exited homelessness.

The growing disparity highlights the urgent need for more effective and scalable solutions to address homelessness in the region. Efforts to combat the crisis have not kept pace with the increasing number of individuals losing their homes, stressing the need for renewed focus and resources.

### **Song of the Week: Lady Dottie and the Diamonds**

On a lighter note, Lady Dottie and the Diamonds are rocking the local music scene with their latest hit, “I Ain’t Mad At Ya.” This garage rock anthem delivers an electrifying performance, featuring energetic solos and dynamic vocals. Critics and fans alike are praising the track for its raw intensity and vibrant sound.

For those interested in experiencing Lady Dottie and the Diamonds live, they will be performing at Lou Lou’s Jungle Room at the Lafayette Hotel on Friday, August 23. Music enthusiasts are encouraged to check out the show and enjoy an evening of high-energy performances.

### **In Other News**

**San Diego State University’s Research Funding Surge:** San Diego State University has significantly increased its research funding, bringing in \$230 million during the latest fiscal year—nearly \$40 million more than the previous year. This surge reflects the university’s growing prominence in research and development.

**Wildfire Protection Program:** San Diego County has launched a pilot program in Dulzura aimed at retrofitting homes to enhance protection against wildfires. This initiative is part of broader efforts to improve community resilience and safety.

**Clean Energy Grants:** Over \$1.2 million in grants will be distributed to 16 organizations across the county to support the development of clean energy projects. This funding is expected to advance sustainability and environmental stewardship in the region.

**Mayor Todd Gloria’s Relationship with Kamala Harris:** Mayor Todd Gloria discussed his relationship with Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris in an interview with the Union-Tribune. While their relationship is described as close, Gloria clarified that they do not seek each other’s advice on personal health matters.

**San Diego Dolphins:** For those interested in marine life, San Diego offers the chance to see dolphins in their natural habitat. Local news features captivating footage of these majestic creatures leaping and playing in the waters off the coast.

These stories illustrate the dynamic and evolving landscape of San Diego, from fiscal successes and community triumphs to ongoing challenges and local culture.

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