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## **Former Head of Seattle FBI Office Endorses Initiative to Legalize, Tax, and Regulate Marijuana**

### **Joins Two Former U.S. Attorneys in Calling for a New Approach**

SEATTLE – Today Charles Mandigo, former Special Agent in Charge of the Seattle Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, announced his endorsement of Initiative 502, a Washington state initiative to legalize, tax, and regulate possession and purchase of small amounts of marijuana for adults 21 and over.

“To be effective, government must not shy away from taking a hard look at whether its resources are being deployed wisely,” Mandigo said. “I do not believe that criminalizing the use of marijuana by adults is a cost-effective utilization of our criminal justice system.”

Mandigo joins former U.S. Attorney John McKay, a sponsor of I-502, and former U.S. Attorney Kate Pflaumer in calling for a new approach to marijuana. Pflaumer announced her endorsement of I-502 Saturday, along with former superior court judge Robert Alsdorf and former municipal court judge and Seattle deputy mayor Anne Levinson, in a [guest editorial](#) published by *The Seattle Times*.

“I do not support or condone the use of marijuana,” Mandigo stated. “Rather, I think it is time for us to try a regulatory approach that frees criminal justice resources for more appropriate priorities and strikes a better cost-benefit balance than the strategy we’ve been pursuing for the past forty years. It concerns me a great deal that our minority communities are over-represented among marijuana defendants, and that 40,000 have died in Mexico in the past four years due to fighting over control of drug trafficking to the United States, a significant part of which involves marijuana.”

Mandigo worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation for twenty-seven years, focusing on anti-terrorism, intelligence and criminal matters. He was promoted to the position of Special Agent in Charge of the Seattle Division in 1999.

More information about I-502 is available at [NewApproachWA.org](http://NewApproachWA.org).

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