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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Glenwood Springs Parks and Recreation to Receive \$25,000 from Marijuana Tax for Youth Programs**

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO – The Valley Marijuana Council (VMC) has dedicated \$25,000 to fund summer passes to the Glenwood Springs Recreation Center for local youth. Eligible students include rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders through 2018 high school graduates from all Glenwood Springs Schools.

In April 2017, Glenwood Springs voters approved two separate 5% sales taxes on marijuana (wholesale and retail). Revenue generated from the tax is aimed at funding the enforcement of regulations on the marijuana industry as well as education and public health programs associated with marijuana consumption.

The Valley Marijuana Council (VMC) was consulted on the use of the funding for youth substance use prevention and mental health support. A total of \$100,000 in funding has been dedicated to the prevention of underage consumption.

The remaining \$75,000 was recommended for a mental health professional from Mind Springs Health to provide prevention and support activities at Two Rivers Community School, Riverview School, Yampah Mountain High School, and St. Stephens Catholic School. This resource expands funding secured from the Colorado Department of Education for similar support in Roaring Fork School District Middle Schools.

The Glenwood Springs City Council and Department of Parks and Recreation are happy to provide a healthy and safe activity for local teenagers this summer who may otherwise turn to marijuana use. According to Mayor Mike Gamba, “The City is excited to start disbursing these funds as the voters intended while also helping our youth thrive in a vulnerable time of their life.”

The VMC comprises a volunteer group of community leaders bound by its belief that the introduction of retail marijuana into cities be safe and responsible, and accompanied by a strong educational

component for children, residents, and visitors. This group comprises the fields of public safety, health, schools, parents, drug prevention specialists, and the business community.

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