

**PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

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Meeting Date: **June 16, 2026**

Department: **Public Safety Department**

Submitted By: **Public Safety Department**

Submitted For: **Criminal Justice Commission**

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I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Title: Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) Vaping Epidemic/Awareness

Summary: The CJC conducted a research analysis of vape-store exposure near schools throughout the County to evaluate the density of vape retailers surrounding schools and the close physical proximity between these businesses and educational campuses. The GIS (Geographic Information System) data revealed findings identifying school/store pairings within one mile of schools across elementary, middle, and high school levels, affecting both public and private institutions. This presentation will provide details of the current landscape of the vaping epidemic and the initiatives to promote awareness along with the recommended strategic plans. **Countywide** (JW)

Background and Justification: In accordance with Ordinance 2023-039, the CJC serves as an advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC); created to study all aspects of the criminal justice and crime prevention systems within the federal, state, county, municipal, and private agencies within the County to include the health and human services and educational systems, among others, as they pertain to criminal justice or crime prevention. The CJC shall make recommendations to the BCC on policies and programs designed to accomplish the objectives of: 1) ensuring the coordination of law enforcement and crime prevention efforts in the County; 2) ensuring an efficient, just and cost-effective criminal justice system in the County; and 3) effecting the reduction of crime in the County on a permanent basis. The report serves this purpose in informing the BCC on the various activities, accomplishments and work plan of the CJC.

Attachment:
1. CJC Vaping Epidemic/ Awareness PowerPoint Presentation

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Recommended by:	<i>Sejoka</i>	6/03/26
	Department Director	Date
Approved By:	<i>Jonathan Brown</i>	6/12/2026
	Deputy County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact

Fiscal Years	<u>2026</u>	<u>2027</u>	<u>2028</u>	<u>2029</u>	<u>2030</u>
Personal Services					
Operating Costs					
Capital Expenditures					
External Revenues					
Program Income (County)					
In-Kind Match (County)					
Net Fiscal Impact	*				
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	0	0	0	0	0

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes _____ No _____
 Is this item using Federal Funds? Yes _____ No _____
 Is this item using State Funds? Yes _____ No _____

Budget Account Exp No: Fund 0001 Dept. 660 Unit 4100 Obj. Var

*This agenda item is informational, no fiscal impact.

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Grant:
Fund:
Unit:

[Handwritten Signature]
6/28/26

C. Departmental Fiscal Review:

[Handwritten mark]

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

[Handwritten Signature]
OFMB
QA 6/14
DA 6/14

[Handwritten Signature]
Contract Dev. And Control
267 6.5.26

B. Legal Sufficiency:

[Handwritten Signature]
Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

Department Director

This summary is not to be used as a basis for payment.



Palm Beach County
Criminal Justice Commission
Improving Justice Outcomes

Youth Vaping in Palm Beach County

Awareness, Data & Action

Criminal Justice Commission | Board of County Commissioners Workshop | June 16, 2026

Criminal Justice Commission & Law Enforcement Planning Council Roles



Criminal Justice Commission (CJC)

- ✓ Advisory board to the BCC.
- ✓ Studies efficient Criminal Justice System and recommends coordinated policy.
- ✓ Initiated GIS research analysis of vape retail proximity to schools.



Law Enforcement Planning Council (LEPC)

- ✓ Convenes law enforcement chiefs countywide.
- ✓ Coordinates policy and interagency response to public safety threats.
- ✓ Identified youth vaping as a countywide public safety priority (Sept 2025).
- ✓ Directed CJC to research proximity restrictions and draft countywide ordinance.

Nicotine & THC Challenges Among Youth



Nicotine Vaping

- **Designed for Youth:** Flavored pods and social media engineering (75.7% of youth exposed to ads nationally; 48.7% locally).
- **School Safety Impact:** Drives disciplinary incidents and possession violations on campus.
- **Retail Saturation:** High density normalizes access.

Sources:

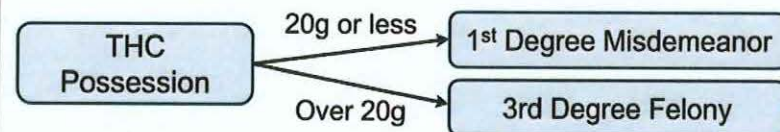
Florida Department of Children and Families. (2024). *2024 State Report: Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey*
Florida Department of Health. (2025). *Student Users of Electronic Vapor Products (FYTS)*



THC Vaping

- **Rapid Rise:** Visually indistinguishable from nicotine devices, evading detection.
- **Health Risks:** Drives increased health and safety risks, impacting brain development.
- **Black Market:** Unregulated access to cartridges lacking safety standards.

Florida Law: §893.13, Fla. Stat.



Youth Vaping in PBC: By the Numbers

4.8%

PBC students report vaping marijuana in the past 30 days.

2.2% → 10.8%

Current nicotine vaping rises nearly fivefold from 6th to 12th grade.

The Convergence of Use

44% of nicotine vapers also vape marijuana.

Nicotine Vapers

Marijuana Vapers

53% of marijuana vapers also vape nicotine.

32.3%

Obtain products from friends (the leading social source).

Source: 2024 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) and National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS).

GIS Analysis: Vape Retail Proximity to Schools

1 Mile Radius

280 store-school pairings
Involving 120 unique schools
and 110 unique stores.

200 Feet

Closest Pairing

Pleasant City Elementary /
Rise N Vape (200 feet apart).

1/4 Mile Radius

18 store-school pairings
Involving 14 unique schools
and 16 unique vape stores.

GIS Analysis: A Closer Look

Top 20 Schools by Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile

J.C. MITCHELL ELEMENTARY	Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile: 7
MONTESORIO ACADEMY OF EARLY ENRICHMENT	Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile: 6
PALM BEACH PREPARATORY CHARTER ACADEMY	Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile: 6
PALM SPRINGS ELEMENTARY	Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile: 6
BARTON ELEMENTARY	Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile: 5
SOCA BARTON ELEMENTARY	Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile: 5
BOYNTON BEACH COMMUNITY HIGH	Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile: 5
BROOK POND ACADEMY OF PALM BEACH	Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile: 5
HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY	Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile: 5
LANTANA COMMUNITY MIDDLE	Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile: 5
LANTANA ELEMENTARY	Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile: 5
PALM BEACH MARITIME ACADEMY	Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile: 5



Vape Stores Within 1/4 Mile

Adult Vape Washhouse	301 Northlake Blvd, West Palm Beach, 33409
Delta Smoke Shop	525 W. Lakeshore Rd, Lantana, 33462
Elevated Vape and Smoke Shop	1804 S. Jog Rd, West Palm Beach, 33411
Empire Smoke Shop	4470 Lake Worth Rd, West Palm Beach, 33411
Fresh Vapors Etc	71 S. Federal Hwy, Boca Raton, 33432
Global Mart Tobacco & Vapes Of Delray	2200 Seawood Blvd, Delray Beach, 33444
Blue N Vape Smoke Shop - West Palm Beach	425 Northwood Rd, West Palm Beach, 33407
The Plug Smoke and Vape Shop	2211 S. Pineapple Rd, West Palm Beach, 33410
Tobacco World	434 S. Congress Ave, West Palm Beach, 33401
Tobacco World	834 S. Congress Ave, West Palm Beach, 33401
Tobacco World	834 S. Congress Ave, West Palm Beach, 33401
Vape Connection	7142 Meridian Way, Boca Raton, 33433
Vapes & Kava	3932 Mountain Rd, Boynton Beach, 33426
Vapes N Smoke of West Palm Beach	604 Sandstone Rd, West Palm Beach, 33409
Vapes N Smoke Shop of Boca Raton	11100 N. Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton, 33430
Vapors Etc	



Source: CJC Geographic Information System (GIS) Research Analysis

Not causation, but convergence.

Highest-Risk Intersections

Santaluces Community High	164 incidents	3 stores (1 mi)	1 store at 250 ft
Boynton Beach Community High	134 incidents	5 stores (1 mi)	

Zip Code Hotspots

Zip Code 33463: Strongest overall overlap
(**445 incidents, 5 stores, 17 EMS calls**).

Zip Code 33411:
Highest total incidents (**494**).

Momentum & Structured Progress



1. GIS Research

Countywide mapping study completed.



2. Interagency Coordination

CJC, LEPC, School Board, and Health Partners aligned.



3. Community Engagement

"The Look I Made..."
THC campaign launched in 80+ schools.



4. Legislative Awareness

Monitoring state developments & researching zoning mechanisms.

Recommended Strategies: Public Awareness



PSAs in Theatres

Captive audience targeting youth.

Highlights health consequences and marketing manipulation via local movie theatres.



Community Town Halls

Direct community input.

Presenting GIS data directly to parents, educators, and students alongside law enforcement and healthcare panels.



Channel 20 Campaign

Sustained, broad-reach awareness.

Low-cost programming on government TV featuring documentaries and expert interviews.

Source: 2024 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) and National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS).

Recommended Strategies: School & Community Coordination



School Board Alignment

In-school prevention/intervention curriculum.

Community partnerships for school presentations, counseling support through community & district resources, school district data, and school police youth court.



Parent & Family Education

Equipping the home.

Behavioral Health Task Force (BHTF) programming teaching parents how to recognize vaping and access intervention resources.



Targeted Digital Campaigns

Behavioral nudges.

The next phase of social media advertising, specifically focused on severe legal consequences of THC vape possession.

Source: 2024 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) and National Youth Tobacco Survey (NYTS)

The Legislative Roadblock & BCC Next Steps

Zoning Ordinance Pathway

STOP: SB 180 Freeze

SB 180 may limit impacted local governments from adopting more restrictive land-use regulations during the applicable period.

The Strategy:
Seek state enabling authority
(model: Texas SB 464).

Next Steps for BCC Consideration

1. **RECEIVE** the CJC Vaping Epidemic presentation and GIS findings.
2. **SUPPORT** the CJC's coordinated public awareness campaigns (PSAs, Town Halls, Channel 20).
3. **AUTHORIZE** continued interagency coordination through the CJC and LEPC.
4. **DIRECT** staff to continue legal review and return with ordinance options when legally viable.
5. **REQUEST** a follow-up BCC report upon completion of partner strategies.

Thank You



For questions regarding this presentation, please contact:

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