

Out & About with Lori Sunflower



What do you think of the proposal to rename the town of Moffat to Kush?

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This Colorado town might change its name to 'Kush' to celebrate its growing cannabis industry

By Zoe Szwed, CNN
(CNN) — The cannabis industry has had a major impact on the tiny town of Moffat, Colorado -- so much that the town is now considering changing its name to "Kush."

Cassandra Foxx, the mayor of Moffat, tells CNN that the town is home to around 120 residents. Still, "Moffat feels like it's on the verge of massive growth right now," she said. "We might be super tiny, but we're trying to do big things here."

The name change proposal came from Mike Biggio, the owner and founder of Area 420, which licenses land for cannabis cultivation in Moffat. "Kush" is a popular slang term for cannabis, which was legalized for recreational use in Colorado in 2012.

Foxx says that Biggio's business has had a major impact on the town economy.

"They kind of gave us life, like a rebirth," she said. "They provided an industry for Moffat."

"We've got a lot of open space, a lot of good resources, beautiful elevation, good climate that lends itself to marijuana cultivation," Foxx said.

Licenses for cannabis cultivation in Moffat, according to Foxx, have shot up from just two to over 70 in the past six years, in large part thanks to Area 420.

After Biggio suggested the name change during the public comment period at a meeting, they put it on the agenda for a town hall on June 7. "It felt like almost the whole town came out to share their side," Foxx said.

Foxx says that not everyone in the town was enthusiastic about the possible name change. Some residents wanted to keep the town's "history, heritage, and identity" embodied in its name. The town was originally named after David H. Moffat, an industrialist who contributed heavily to the development of railroads and mines in Colorado.

The next step in transforming Moffat to Kush would be for a resident to start a petition, Foxx says.

"Currently it's just a discussion, we haven't done anything," she said. Foxx thinks the possibility of changing the town's name is "exciting." "A little silly, but that's good," she said. "It's the right kind of silly. But it's also accurate, like it is a good representation of this region, of the industry that we're trying to promote, and the lifeblood of our town." "Change is always good," she added.

**Note: Mike Biggio does not reside in the Moffat zip code area.*



Ken Skoglund, Moffat Town Trustee

The name change business is a waste of energy that should be used on more productive things such as cleaning up the town. The town board needs to remember that we represent the entire community, not just one business. I believe there are other ways to promote a business than by pissing off 99% of the community.

Lynn Ertle

It concerns me for long term business owners, corporations, and LLCs, and the amount of money that it will take to change each one of those. And it's not a healthy name for the school district, which is very concerning to me.



Peggy Godfrey

Having a name change to one's relatively new community may seem cool, but wait til you've been here 15 or 20 years...if you are still here, then you and your buds can make changes. Doing it as a promo stunt seems a bit like kids playing games and sweeping the long-term locals aside. We have tenure, kinda like roots, whether that means anything to you or not.



Zack Reuter

The people wishing to change the name of the town of Moffat are apparently unwilling or unable to articulate how they think the name change would benefit anyone. They have made vague claims of increased business, supposedly backed up by links to articles about the tax benefits of having a grow operation in the district, as if we were not already very familiar with that rhetoric. As if we didn't already have what is claimed to be the largest marijuana grow operation in the country right here, already. How many more growers do we need here, then, to get the benefits in those vague claims? The town government has far more urgent business they need to be putting their time and money into, and should forget this silly fetish.



Moffat Resident

To change the name of the town of Moffat to Kush would imply that marijuana is what it's all about, which is wrong. Moffat people have pride and history. We are a hardworking, honest and caring community, who want to preserve Moffat, as is.

Christie Barton

I oppose the name change as it does not reflect the history the Town of Moffat represents: railroads, agricultural and mineral production, and the generations of families that live here. We are not dependent on a single industry and shouldn't try to be.



Rancher in the 81143 Zip Code

My biggest problem with it is: [hundreds] of us that don't live within the township don't have a voice in this, but we're affected by it greatly. And I think a small contingent special interest (is what I would call them) inside the town limits is disgraceful. The name Moffat is historic in Colorado: the Moffat Road; the Moffat Tunnel bringing the railroads across the mountains; Moffat County; and our town of Moffat. And I just think that we're losing so much of our history. And especially for the youth in the high school and sports teams, to have that name affiliated with them is probably not a good idea. We have a hard enough time keeping kids in this valley the way it is, and putting another burden on them to move upward is not a good idea.



Nancy Garrett

I think it's a waste of time, energy and money. Moffat has old business that needs to be taken care of that is more pertinent than this and I think it's somebody's ego trip.

Moffat Resident

Changing Moffat to Kush would be an unnecessary expense for everyone, especially for those of us on fixed incomes.

Moffat Resident

Moffat is my home for 6 generations. Let's keep our proud name and give Kush back to the Afghans.

Kristin Ecklund

As a previous Board member and a citizen of the Town of Moffat, I have been in support of the Area 420 development, hopeful that the funds brought in by it would benefit this community, its residents, and the surrounding area. Sadly, there is a shift in priorities with an attempt to pressure the Town Board into changing the name of Moffat, named for its founder and a name used by hundreds of County residents and businesses, to Kush, a name meaningful only to a limited number of Area 420 business owners and to those who fought in the war in Kush, Afghanistan. It's very sad that these few individuals are pushing so hard for this without consideration for the local community and causing the town to continue to neglect huge priorities: getting the town codified, cleaning up fires from years ago and installing a water infrastructure that's legally required and behind schedule. I would rather see them use their energy, focus and the town's funding to help benefit the community and especially the children who reside there.

