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City planner charged with pot cultivation

Employees City
BY JOHN WOOLFOLK

Mercury News Staff Writer

Santa Cruz Planning Director Peter Katzlberger has been charged with felony marijuana cultivation in connection with the 22 cannabis plants confiscated behind his Felton home last month.

Katzlberger, 52, and his wife, Jeanette, 59, have been scheduled for a court appearance next Friday to answer one charge each of marijuana cultivation.

The veteran city official, who has been planning director since 1978, has been suspended

without pay from his \$85,357-a-year job. City Manager Richard Wilson has not yet decided whether Katzlberger will keep his job.

According to the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Department, officers with the Campaign Against Marijuana Planting spotted the plants during a routine helicopter fly-over. The deputies returned and found budding marijuana plants growing in plastic pots and a trail leading to Katzlberger's house, according to the sheriff's department. Jeanette Katzlberger allegedly told the deputies that the couple used marijuana to relax.