



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Howard S. Lazarus, City Administrator

DATE: June 30, 2017

SUBJECT: Medical Marijuana Ordinance Review Committee

This memorandum provides an update regarding the activities of the Medical Marijuana Ordinance Review Committee appointed to review the City's current Medical Marijuana Licensing Ordinance in light of the new state legislation. In Council Resolution R-16-470, this committee was charged with reviewing the ordinance, identifying and recommending changes, and to complete its work by June 30th. The Committee held four meetings seeking input from the public, subject matter experts and representatives of the Police and Fire Departments. Draft versions of the ordinance were reviewed on two occasions resulting in a unanimous recommendation to adopt the final version. The ordinance, along with supporting documentation, will be brought to Council for consideration at its regularly scheduled July 17th meeting.

In addition to recommending the adoption of the ordinance, the committee discussed the issue of existing facilities and how to appropriately transition them to permits under the new ordinance. The Committee understands that existing facilities cannot be "grandfathered" under the new permitting ordinance. However, there remains significant concern regarding how that process will take place. To that end, the Committee conditioned its recommendation on Council and staff working together to try, if possible, to identify a process that would allow existing facilities early application when the new rules are established.

To continue assisting staff, the Planning Commission, and City Council, it is recommended that the Committee continue its work past the original June 30th date until all work related to the new legislation is complete. This includes evaluation of changes to the City's current zoning regulations and application process on an as needed basis. The Committees expertise on the subject matter will continue to be useful to the process.