

Summary of Medical and Adult Use Marijuana Public Meeting

January 12, 2021 – 5:30 pm

Staff and members of the community met on January 12, 2021 to discuss the City of Tucson's response to the recently approved initiative legalizing adult use marijuana. Staff began the meeting with introductions and a powerpoint presentation on the City's medical marijuana regulations and potential changes to Tucson's zoning code. The following were comments and staff responses during the meeting:

Comment: There are forms from the Arizona Department of Health Services that will need to be signed by the City prior to March 9th, otherwise local dispensaries will not be able to convert to dual medical and adult use.

Comment: I get nervous about the square footage allotment for secured space if secure storage is included in the square footage of the dispensary. Right now, we're following the medical regulations for testing and there are only seven or eight certified labs in this state of Arizona. A lot of producers have had to produce at a mass amount to accommodate slow testing. I just get nervous that 500 square feet for secured space is not nearly enough for medical right now without adult use.

Comment. Moving towards serving recreational customers alongside medicinal patients, we're going to need more storage. Also, recently there have been some changes with the rules requiring the separation of tested versus and non-tested inventory. Moving forward, we're going to need to see more space to accommodate this separated inventory. Additionally, 8000 square feet seems to be reasonable for dispensary size, however, I don't think we should be counting the space for our waiting areas, restrooms, or storage areas.

Comment: How would new investors be made aware of the locations that were underserved or disproportionately impacted by the enforcement of previous laws as these licenses open up?

Staff Response: The location of underserved locations is going to be determined through the state and they are currently working on those rules. Paying attention to what the state is doing will be the best way to stay aware of where these licenses will be allocated.

Comment: Manufacturing facilities have been allowed in only the I-1 and I-2 but not allowed in zones like the P-I. There's are several mixed-use industrial type areas that could be altered to allow manufacturing. Additionally, there's also potentially urban agriculture zones where cultivation could take place.

Comment: There's only 11 licenses that are currently within the City of Tucson and it could possibly grow. Could you speak to that?

Staff Response: Currently, there's a set amount of medical licenses (11) that we have in the city. There are going to be 26 additional licenses for the entire state. A good portion of those are going to go to underserved areas. Underserved areas are counties that have either one or two dispensaries currently, so it is unclear how many licenses will be awarded in Tucson. Again, those rules are still being drafted by the state.

Comment: Dispensaries had been limited to 4000 square feet; the new proposed limit is 8000 square feet. Why the change to 8000? And not 6000, 10,000, or another size?

Staff Response: We are going from one use (medical), to the two uses together (medical and adult), so doubling the space has been proposed. This is how we landed on 8000, but these numbers are somewhat arbitrary, and we are looking for your feedback on what dispensary size is appropriate.

Comment: Is this going to be the only opportunity that citizens are going to have to ask questions?

Staff Response: Feel free to fill out a comment card if you'd like and I'm more than happy to meet with you to discuss further. You can also shoot me an email or give me a call. Additionally, we are going to be

going to the Planning Commission for a study session then will have public hearings with both the Planning Commission and Mayor and Council after that.