



# Lowell City Council

## *Cannabis Control SC Meeting Minutes*

Michael Q. Geary  
City Clerk

**Date:** October 9, 2018  
**Time:** 4:30 PM  
**Location:** City Council Chamber  
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

### **PRESENT:**

Present on Roll Call were C. Elliott, C. Conway and C. Nuon. Also present were C. Mercier, Eric Slagle (Inspectional Services) and Manager Donoghue.

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

C. Elliott noted meeting agenda and called meeting to order.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

C. Elliott noted it was the first meeting of the subcommittee and indicated there would be more to come as the State moves through their implementation of the statute. Manager Donoghue provided opening remarks indicating that the City would allow five establishments to operate in the cultivation and retail of marijuana per State law. Manager Donoghue noted that one host agreement has been executed in the City with Patriot Care for operation of a medical use retail facility along with a cultivation center. C. Elliott questioned time process for Patriot Care. Mr. Slagle noted they began process in late 2013 and has been in operation since 2015. Mr. Slagle outlined their security procedures at the facility noting that the system must be approved by the police department. C. Conway questioned the operation of the business. C. Nuon commented on the host agreement signed by Patriot Care. C. Elliott noted Massachusetts Department of Health oversees medical use facilities and Cannabis Control Commission oversees the recreational use of marijuana. C. Mercier commented on percentage due to City regarding sale of marijuana. Mr. Slagle noted three percent would be a fee in addition to three percent a sales tax. Mr. Slagle noted tax collected would go to General Fund, while fee would be designated towards community impact resolutions. C. Conway noted that the rates were set by the State.

Mr. Slagle provided following presentation entitled "Marijuana Businesses in Lowell – Process for Review and Application". The presentation included following topics: State Timeline; Map of Districts; Preferences of City; Host Agreement – Sample Highlights; Planning Board Approval



Review; State Process; and Local Timeline. C. Elliott commented on the zoning approval process. C. Nuon noted costs of the product and how finances are handled. Mr. Slagle noted there are limited banks that will be handling these accounts and further noted how income would be tracked. C. Conway questioned zoning around schools. C. Conway questioned the hiring of local people and how it would be tracked. Mr. Slagle noted annual meeting would be held to ensure compliance with all agreements. C. Elliott questioned formula to set amount due to the City and noted that the cultivation aspect would raise more revenue. Mr. Slagle noted the amount of pending applications with most seeking cultivation and resale permits and that they still would need to go through a rolling State application process. C. Conway commented on City screening committee for the applications. Mr. Slagle noted the committee as well as an internal working group. Manager Donoghue noted State vetting process is done as well and is more intensive. C. Elliott questioned how evaluation criteria were established. Mr. Slagle noted adherence to State regulations. C. Nuon questioned security and safety plan for the facilities. Mr. Slagle noted that the police department approves all security plans and that is not done in a public forum. Manager Donoghue noted that there are many issues still being addressed by the State and that there are no local timelines being developed. C. Elliott noted the need for public participation throughout the whole process and all information should be available to residents. **Motion** to accept the report as a report of progress by C. Conway, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion** to recess and adjourn by C. Conway, seconded by C. Nuon. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Michael Geary, City Clerk

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