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TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*
FROM: R. Eric Slagle, Director of Development Services
DATE: February 20, 2019
RE: Informational – Patriot Care Recreational Marijuana Parking/Traffic Planning.

This memorandum addresses the parking and traffic issues and plans for the anticipated March opening of the Patriot Care recreational marijuana dispensary.

As the Council is aware, the City is anticipating the opening of the Patriot Care recreational marijuana dispensary to the public in the coming weeks. Over the last month, City staff, including LPD, the City Traffic Engineer, and Development Services staff, have had multiple meetings, both internally, and with Patriot Care staff, to formulate and review appropriate traffic and parking plans for the opening of this business.

With respect to parking, Patriot Care will have onsite access to a minimum of 80 spaces, including handicapped spaces. Additionally, Patriot Care is finalizing an agreement for an offsite lot with approximately 100 spaces from which it will run a shuttle service to the facility.

For traffic management, Patriot Care is working with MassDOT, and will have electronic message boards on both I-495 and Rt. 3 directing traffic to the facility. Detail officers will be requested from both Lowell and the State Police to manage traffic, in addition to Patriot Care security personnel. Patriot Care will have fencing and appropriate signage for parking.

Patriot Care will have a tent for outdoor queuing and exterior restrooms in the lot. Patriot Care plans on taking pre-orders from folks while they are queuing in line, and hopes to maintain their current level of service, which has a total entry to exit transaction time of less than seven minutes per customer.

Patriot Care plans on having their initial opening day on a Saturday, so that both they and the City can evaluate the traffic generated over the weekend before workday traffic is impacted. This will also allow us to adjust the plans in the case of und foreseen issues.

Both City staff and Patriot Care are confident that we have taken the appropriate steps to prepare for and mitigate the potential traffic and parking issues arising from this opening, and we are committed to continuing to work together to make sure these plan continue to work going forward.

ES

02/20/2019