



Lowell City Council

Zoning / Cannabis Control SC Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: November 29, 2022
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack St./Zoom (Hybrid)

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were from Zoning SC - C. Drinkwater, C. Leahy (Zoom) and C. Yem. From Cannabis Control SC – C. Drinkwater, C. Leahy (Zoom) and C. Robinson. Also present were C. Gitschier, Francesca Cigliano (Insp. Services) and Yovani Baez-Rose.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Drinkwater noted purpose of the meeting being to establish an ordinance to regulate cannabis delivery and attendance.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Ms. Cigliano provided the following presentation entitled “Proposed Zoning Changes: Marijuana Delivery and Couriers”. Ms. Cigliano outlined following topics: purpose of change to permit pathway to delivery; Social Equity and Economic Empowerment applicants; and delivery versus courier distinction. Ms. Cigliano noted the proposed changes to zoning districts, parking, definitions and use chart. Ms. Cigliano commented on use of Host Community Agreements (HCA). C. Gitschier questioned origin of the proposed changes and the involvement of the Law Department. C. Gitschier noted need for community input if extending zoning area. Ms. Cigliano commented on the process noting adherence to State regulations and review of other communities’ ordinances. C. Drinkwater commented on the strict regulations in place by the State. C. Yem noted the essential element is to control the delivery. Ms. Baez-Rose noted zoning allows business in the City, not the actual right to deliver. C. Drinkwater noted delivery will happen in State so City should be in position to fully capitalize on that. C. Robinson noted zoning would not change just adding rights into established districts. Ms. Baez-Rose noted restrictions prevent many applicants from applying due to capital constraints and that should be addressed to allow expanded group of applicants. C. Leahy noted the presentation.

C. Drinkwater opened meeting up to public. Nairobi Sanchez and Joseph Shelsy addressed the subcommittee.



Motion by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Yem to recommend to the full Council to approve ordinance as outlined in presentation. Adopted per Roll Call vote 4 yeas. So voted. C. Robinson noted the effective operation of current cannabis facilities. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Yem to have further subcommittee meeting regarding discussion of HCA use by City administration. So voted. C. Gitschier commented on the facilities cleanliness and security. C. Yem commented on speakers and supported their businesses.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Yem. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
