



Lowell City Council

Cannabis Control SC Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: December 13, 2022
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack St./Zoom (Hybrid)

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Drinkwater, C, Leahy and C. Robinson. Also present were Francesca Cigliano (Inspectional Services); Yovani Baez-Rose (DPD); C. Gitschier; C. Rourke; C. Mercier; C. Yem; and Atty. John McKenna (Law Department).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Drinkwater noted agenda items and attendance.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Ms. Cigliano commented on prior motion response outlining the Host Community Agreement (HCA) process which included definitions; Manager and DPD involvement; social equity applicants for exclusive three year period. Ms. Cigliano noted City has a women and veteran preference in place and stated that the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) extends those metrics. Ms. Cigliano commented on extension of zoning to accommodate applicants by extension of buffer zones surrounding schools from 1000 feet down to 500 feet. C. Drinkwater commented on social equity function of the application process indicating how factors are weighed. Ms. Cigliano commented on how each applicant is vetted. C. Robinson suggested expanding exclusive period regarding social equity applicants as well as a residency requirement. Ms. Cigliano noted that CCC suggestion is to alternate applicants. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Drinkwater to request DPD provide a report to present options through zoning to expand the availability of sites in the City as well as HCA use. Adopted per Roll Call vote 2 yeas, 1 nay (C. Leahy). So voted. C. Drinkwater suggested expanding applicant preference for best wages and labor peace agreements. **Motion** by C. Drinkwater, seconded by C. Robinson to request Law Department report to subcommittee regarding possible further preference to HCA applicants who support lower wages and labor peace agreements, etc. So voted, 3 yeas. C. Drinkwater opened meeting up to public for this item with no response.

C. Drinkwater commented on consumption lounge pilot program. C. Robinson requested DPD explore possible allowance of lounges in the City. C. Drinkwater noted that the State has not



developed any regulations in this area. Ms. Cigliano noted that the CCC has not given any indication when they would be addressing this issue. **Motion** by C. Robinson, seconded by C. Drinkwater request City Manager provide a report regarding process to opt into lounge pilot program. So voted, 3 yeas. C. Yem questioned what a consumption lounge is. C. Robinson suggested it is similar to a social club. C. Drinkwater noted the need to see what it entails for it to be viable. C. Yem suggested looking at other communities. C. Drinkwater opened this item up to the public: Joseph Shelsy addressed the body.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to recess by C. Leahy, seconded by C. Robinson. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
