

LA City – Commercial Cannabis Location Restriction Ordinance

CPC-2017-2260-CA
ENV-2017-2261-EAF

Summary: The proposed Commercial Cannabis Location Restriction Ordinance, drafted by the Department of City Planning, would establish location restrictions and a limited immunity from enforcement of specified City prohibitions relating to various types of medical and nonmedical commercial cannabis activities. The location restrictions address zoning and distancing requirements to protect sensitive sites and avoid over-concentration of commercial cannabis activity. This ordinance responds to recent changes in State law, as well as to Proposition M, approved by Los Angeles voters in March 2017. Starting in 2018, the State of California is anticipated to begin issuing licenses for businesses to produce and sell both medical and nonmedical (sometimes referred to as “recreational”) cannabis. Proposition M requires the City Council to repeal the City’s existing restrictions on medical cannabis businesses and develop a comprehensive regulatory process and structure for all cannabis-related commercial activity.

The Commercial Cannabis Location Restriction Ordinance is only one component of a broader legislative approach to commercial cannabis in the City. This proposed ordinance, drafted by the Department of City Planning (DCP), is limited in scope to restricting the location of various types of commercial cannabis activity. Additional legislation is being developed by the City to, among other matters, establish a Cannabis Commission and operating and additional public safety restrictions for commercial cannabis activity. Key elements of the ordinance drafted by DCP:

- Identifies zones and required distances from sensitive sites for specified commercial cannabis activity.
- Provides for limited specified commercial cannabis activity to assert limited immunity from enforcement of specified City prohibitions so long as the activity is conducted by persons operating under a State license and Certificate of Compliance issued by the City’s Cannabis Commission, and meets the location restrictions in the ordinance and additional regulations.

In addition to the main text of the ordinance, DCP has also prepared an ordinance supplement providing a land use review process option, which the City Council may incorporate into the ordinance at its discretion.

PROPOSED PROJECT: An amendment to the Los Angeles Municipal Code concerning location restrictions and limited immunity from enforcement of specified City prohibitions relating to commercial cannabis activity consistent with Measure M adopted by Los Angeles City voters on March 7, 2017.

Hearing Notice:

<https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/CommercialCannabis/files/Hearing%20Notice.pdf>

Please submit comments by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 12, 2017 to: Niall Huffman
niall.huffman@lacity.org, (213) 978-3405.

Ordinance:

<https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/CommercialCannabis/files/Ordinance.pdf>

Ordinance Supplement:

<https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/CommercialCannabis/files/OrdinanceSupplement.pdf>

Questions and Answers (corrected):

<https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/CommercialCannabis/files/QandA%20CORRECTED.pdf>

Draft Location Restriction Summary:

<https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/Commercialcannabis/files/LocationRestrictionSummary.pdf>

Staff Hearing Presentation – June 29, 2017:

<https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/Commercialcannabis/files/LocationRestrictionSummary.pdf>

MAPS (Maps are posted on the Planning Dept. website for all Council Districts and for the City as a whole)

- Cultivation and Manufacturing Eligible Zones- CD 5
<https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/Commercialcannabis/maps/Cultivation/CD%2005.pdf>
- Dispensary and Retail Eligible Locations (includes 800ft distancing) CD 5:
<https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/Commercialcannabis/maps/Dispensary/CD5.pdf>
- Dispensary and Retail Eligible Locations and EMMBs (includes 800ft distancing) CD5:
https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/Commercialcannabis/maps/Dispensary_EMMBs/CD5.pdf
- Distribution and Testing Eligible Zones CD5:
<https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/Commercialcannabis/maps/Distribution/CD%2005.pdf>
- Microbusiness Eligible Locations (includes 800ft distancing) CD5:
<https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/Commercialcannabis/maps/Microbusiness/CD5.pdf>
- Microbusiness Eligible Locations and EMMBs (includes 800ft distancing) CD5:
https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/Commercialcannabis/maps/Microbusiness_EMMBs/CD5.pdf