



City Council Marijuana Task Force - Minutes
Thursday, December 3, 2015, 10:00AM
Pikes Peak Conference Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall

In Attendance – Brian Anderson, Councilmember Larry Bagley, Lynette Crow-Iverson, Jan Doran, John Harding, Charles Houghton, Dale Hecht, Sarah Johnson, Fire Marshal Brett Lacey, Commander Sean Mandel, Wynetta Massey, Tom Scudder, Bret Waters, Peter Wysocki

1.	<p>Welcome from the Chair Councilmember Larry Bagley</p> <p>Councilmember Bagley welcomed the group and noted that Council relies on input from volunteer citizens to help it understand our community’s priorities on important issues. He went on to say that the marijuana industry, both medical and recreational, is a relatively new one, and as time passes, we’re hearing about problems emerging as new business models and strategies develop. Those problems have to do with locations of marijuana businesses (which the City can regulate under its land use and zoning codes), licensing requirements (which the City can regulate under its business licensing powers).</p> <p>The moratorium will permit the City to study the impacts of new types of marijuana-related land uses and determine whether additional land use, zoning, or other regulations are necessary to protect and preserve the public health, safety and welfare.</p>	10:00AM
2.	<p>Introductions & Housekeeping Eileen Lynch Gonzalez, City Council Administrator</p> <p>Ms. Gonzalez introduced herself and invited the citizen members to provide information on their backgrounds and any specific concerns they have.</p> <p>She noted that staff are developing a web page to collect relevant documents, including agendas and minutes and reference material, as well as an email address that’s specific to the task force.</p> <p>Ms. Gonzalez explained that City Council imposed a six-month moratorium on the City’s processing of land use or licensing reviews or approvals for any new medical</p>	10:10AM

	<p>marijuana facility. It began November 26, 2015 and goes through May 26, 2016, and will not be extended.</p> <p>Existing locations continue to operate with current licensing regulations; if Council adopts new ordinances or regulations, they will apply to new facilities.</p>	
3.	<p>Issue Background and Task Force Charge</p> <p>Councilmember Bagley provided information on the task force's charge, Council's concerns, and his hopes for the task force's work.</p>	10:25AM
4.	<p>Current Regulatory Environment Sarah Johnson, City Clerk</p> <p>Lee McRae, License Enforcement Officer with the City Clerk's Office, provided an overview of the City's role in licensing medical marijuana businesses in the City, and answered questions.</p>	10:40AM
5.	<p>Public Safety and Neighborhood Concerns Commander Sean Mandel, Fire Marshal Brett Lacey, Brian Anderson, Colorado Springs Utilities</p> <p>Sgt. Vargason outlined the process of investigating a suspected marijuana grow, including utilities issues. He discussed plant counts and the challenges law enforcement faces when addressing citizen complaints relating to marijuana grows, including odor, and their concerns regarding the City's ability to enforce zoning requirements.</p> <p>Sgt. Vargason noted that Boulder, Aurora and Denver are on the cutting edge of marijuana regulation in Colorado.</p> <p>Commander Mandel discussed the link between home grows and illegal distribution, and said there needs to be enforcement available to the PD on the plant count.</p> <p>Jan Doran asked about possible fire dangers resulting from for unpermitted electrical, which Fire Marshal Lacey will address in a future meeting.</p>	10:55AM
6.	<p>Orientation to Marijuana-Related Land Use Issues Peter Wysocki, Planning Director</p> <p>Ryan Tefertiller of the Planning Department provided a high-level overview of the City's land use provisions relating to marijuana businesses in general, with an emphasis on the overall context of the City's role in regulating zoning and land use for the protection of public</p>	11:10AM

	<p>health, safety and welfare. Addressed odor enforcement on licensed grows, noting that most complaints arise from caregivers grows in residential areas.</p> <p>Fire Marshal Lacey has some concerns about MIPS and their locations.</p>	
7.	<p>Meeting Schedule & Deadlines Eileen Lynch Gonzalez, City Council Administrator</p> <p>Ms. Gonzalez noted that the Task Force’s report is due to City Council within 120 days. Since task force was appointed on November 24, 2015, the report is due to Council on March 23, 2016, which would allow the group to target presentation of the report to Council at its March 21, 2016 work session.</p> <p>Due to the short timeline, the report will consist of proposed new or amended ordinances and/or regulations and a presentation on the group’s recommendations to Council rather than a comprehensive written report.</p> <p>The group agreed to four meetings on Fridays – January 8 and 22 and February 12 and 26, with additional meetings as needed.</p>	11:25AM
8.	Questions & Comments	11:40PM
9.	Adjourn	12:00PM