

Planning Commission



Date: April 11, 2017

To:: City Council

From: Planning Commission

Dear Mayor and Honorable Members of the City Council,

By this letter, the Planning Commission would like to outline its concerns regarding the zoning of certain medical marijuana facilities within the City.

At the March 14, 2017 and April 11, 2017, Planning Commission meetings, the Planning Commission discussed its concerns regarding the zoning of testing and distribution of medical marijuana. As the Council may recall, the Planning Commission and the City Council held a joint meeting in September of 2016, to discuss, among other things, Medical Marijuana, its uses and zoning areas. The City Council ultimately decided to adopt an ordinance which amended Chapter 17.180 of the DHSMC to enact reasonable regulations pertaining to medical marijuana dispensaries, cultivation facilities, testing facilities, and manufacturing (which includes extraction) and distribution facilities. During the meeting the Planning Commission and the City Council briefly discussed the zoning in which these uses were allowed to occur.

Currently, medical marijuana testing, distribution and other business which are ancillary to cultivation facilities are only allowed in the Industrial zones. The Planning Commission would like Council to consider amending its Ordinance to allow medical marijuana testing, distribution and other ancillary business in commercial zones, since these uses are similar to other such uses in commercial zones. Further, these ancillary businesses could deem it cost prohibitive to commence operations in the Industrial zones, since the land value of the Industrial zones has dramatically increased.