

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



DATE: August 21, 2018

TITLE: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 17.180 Allowing Marijuana Testing Facilities in the Commercial Zones

Prepared by: Daniel Porras, Community Development Director
Jennifer Mizrahi, City Attorney

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Staff Report;
- 2) Entertain Questions from Councilmembers to Staff;
- 3) Open the Public Hearing;
- 4) Take Testimony of those in Favor;
- 5) Take Testimony of those Opposed;
- 6) Take Testimony of those in a neutral position;
- 7) Close the Public Hearing;
- 8) City Council discussion; and
- 9) Consider a recommendation from the Planning Commission that the City Council introduce and read by title only, "An Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Desert Hot Springs, amending Chapter 17.180 Allowing Marijuana Testing Facilities in the Commercial Zones."

DISCUSSION:

The City adopted several ordinances over the past few years to allow for a comprehensive permit and entitlement process for both recreational and medical uses of marijuana, including manufacturing, testing, dispensing, cultivation and distribution.

All marijuana related uses require that the applicant obtain certain entitlement and permits from the City. In particular, the City adopted several ordinances, all codified in Chapter 17.180 of the DHSMC to allow for manufacturing, testing, and distribution of both medical and recreational marijuana, in addition to cultivation and dispensing. Currently, marijuana cultivation, testing and distributing are only allowed in the Industrial District with a conditional use permit and other permits. Marijuana Testing Facilities can be more akin to commercial uses, since such testing would require skilled professionals to test in a laboratory.

The proposed Ordinance would expand the zoning districts of Marijuana Testing Facilities to also include allowing Marijuana Testing Facilities in all commercial zones, with a conditional use permit and other applicable permits. The proposed Ordinance would also amend the land use table to reflect this change.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

EXHIBITS:

- 1) Ordinance Allowing Marijuana Testing Facilities in the Commercial Zones