

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: South Robertson Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(19) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 03/16/2017

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 03/17/2017

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 14-0366-S5

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: By unanimous consent, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports the 3/8/17 recommendations of the City's Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee to establish the administrative structure for adult-use and medical cannabis business licensing, including:I. The creation of a new Cannabis Licensing Commission with the authority to administer the cannabis license and hearing process, as well as renewals, revocation, inspection co-ordination, and audits: a. Commission comprised of five members with 4-year staggered terms; b. No member may have been a registered lobbyist within the City for any cannabis-related activities for the 12 months prior to appointment; c. Three appointments by the Mayor and two appointments by the City Council; d. Minimum of one Commission appointee by the Mayor to be an elected member of a Neighborhood Council at the time of the appointment.II. The hiring of an Executive Director by July 1, 2017 to oversee Commission staff.III. Requiring the CAO to immediately prepare budget and staffing plans to allow the Commission to be fully operational by Sept. 1, 2017, and conduct a fee study to achieve full cost recovery for cannabis regulations.IV. The establishment of an online cannabis licensing program.



Motion to support the creation of an LA Cannabis Licensing Commission

Agenda Item: GB031617-4
Date: 16 March 2017
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Background

Council File 14-0366-S5

In the wake of the passage of Proposition 64, which decriminalizes adult recreational use of cannabis in California and creates a licensing framework for non-medical cannabis activity, and Measure M, which authorizes the City to tax and create new local regulations for cannabis businesses, Los Angeles faces a rapidly-approaching deadline.

Prop. 64 creates a dual system that requires operating licenses from both the City and State. As the State is mandated to begin issuing licenses by January 1, 2018, the City effectively has the same deadline. Nine months out, LA's administrative structure for that does not yet exist.

In the first of a series of proposed cannabis ordinances, the City's Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods (REIGN) Committee has proposed the creation of a new commission and supporting department. The goal is to have the department up and running by July 1 to develop processes and procedures, the commission by Sept. 1 to begin hearing applications, and licenses issued beginning Jan. 1. It is an aggressive schedule, and may require emergency hiring appointments.

The proposal includes provision for the appointment of at least one NC board member on the commission to ensure that neighborhood voices are included in the licensing process.

Future ordinances will tackle land-use and business operation issues.

Proposed Motion

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council supports the 3/8/17 recommendations of the City's Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee to establish the administrative structure for adult-use and medical cannabis business licensing, including:

- I. The creation of a new Cannabis Licensing Commission with the authority to administer the cannabis license and hearing process, as well as renewals, revocation, inspection co-ordination, and audits:
 - a. Commission comprised of five members with 4-year staggered terms;
 - b. No member may have been a registered lobbyist within the City for any cannabis-related activities for the 12 months prior to appointment;
 - c. Three appointments by the Mayor and two appointments by the City Council;

Doug Fitzsimmons
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- d. Minimum of one Commission appointee by the Mayor to be an elected member of a Neighborhood Council at the time of the appointment.
- II. The hiring of an Executive Director by July 1, 2017 to oversee Commission staff.
- III. Requiring the CAO to immediately prepare budget and staffing plans to allow the Commission to be fully operational by Sept. 1, 2017, and conduct a fee study to achieve full cost recovery for cannabis regulations.
- IV. The establishment of an online cannabis licensing program.

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 0

Against:

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

It's a strong first step to controlling commercial cannabis activity in LA. Being ready on Jan 1 will help the industry comply with regulations and discourage grey-area businesses.

Requiring an NC member on the Commission is an unprecedented step and a major win for NCs.

Arguments against:

The timeline is too tight to get the Commission up and running. We should delay issuing licenses until we're ready.

The Commission should be larger to ensure quorum.