

CITY OF OCEANSIDE

AD-HOC COMMITTEE LOOKS AT NEW MEDICINAL CANNABIS REGULATIONS

In November, 2016, the voters of California approved Prop 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act. This set into motion a number of regulatory actions by the State, preparing for the licensing of cannabis businesses beginning January, 2018. Cities were given the option to set their own regulations for cannabis use, or accept the State regulations. Oceanside, wanting to maintain local control, enacted a ban on both medical and recreational marijuana (with the exception of deliveries of medical marijuana) within the city limits.

In April, 2017, the City Council created an ad-hoc committee to explore regulations for the cultivation, distribution, and dispensing of medical marijuana. The committee was created to consider all aspects of the medical marijuana industry and see what, if any, fit the industry could have in the City of Oceanside. All ad-hoc committees of the city have a sunset provision of six months, and this committee will work until November 2017 to make its findings.

Among others, the ad-hoc committee is comprised of two city councilmembers: Deputy Mayor Chuck Lowery and Councilmember Jerry Kern. The Council members were willing to explore the possibility of allowing medical marijuana businesses within the city limits. The councilmembers are joined by City Treasurer Rafe Trickey and two community members: Dr. Wendy Wiehl and Gloria Ryan. The five-member panel is tasked with collecting input from community and industry members, and presenting a report to the City Council in November of this year.

Making sense of the changing playing field

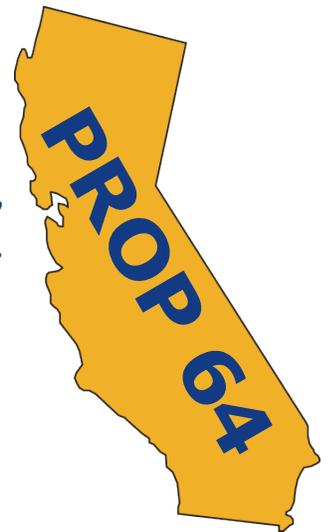
The committee's first task was to begin the examination of five areas: cultivation, distribution, retail dispensing, finances, and testing/consumer safety. Each of the committee members has been tasked with exploring one of the five areas. Before any exploration could happen, the committee needed to learn the rules put forward by the State. The State, during its budget process, passed AB 94 which combined the various regulations for adult-use and medical marijuana into one set of rules.

Once the new combined regulations were established, the work of the committee, interpreting the new rules to determine how they could work in Oceanside, began. So far, the committee has held one meeting concerning cultivation and one public meeting to hear public concerns. In the next months, the committee

will meet to discuss finances, dispensing, testing/consumer safety and distribution. Each of these meetings will involve industry experts who will share their information and experiences about the various topics. The committee also meets regularly to discuss information learned and possible recommendations to be made to the council in November.

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Staying as transparent as possible

With such a volatile topic as medical marijuana, the committee's first wish was to remain as open and transparent as possible. The committee created a [webpage](#) on the City's website which lists the members, provides a list of meeting dates/times, and links to various resources. All meetings of the ad-hoc committee are open to the public so the work of the committee can be observed.

It is the hope of the committee, come November, that their recommendations will be what are best for the City of Oceanside. What shape these recommendations will take are yet to be determined. Your input is welcome during the process. The committee email address is available so that your ideas are registered and considered in the deliberations. You can email all the members of the committee at one address: mmadhoc@ci.oceanside.ca.us.

For more information on the committee, or to see the calendar of meetings, please visit <http://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/services/comms/mmac.asp>.