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ZONING ORDINANCE FOR ADULT USE MARIHUANA PASSES IN PONTIAC

Business owners interested in applying for a license can begin July 5.

PONTIAC (April 5, 2023) – At a regularly scheduled City Council meeting held on April 4, 2023, Pontiac City Council approved nine (9) different adult marihuana land uses in the City. The process to develop a comprehensive ordinance began in late 2022. The Pontiac Planning Commission held two (2) Public Hearings and recommended approval to the City on March 1, 2023. The proposed ordinance was discussed at length in Council chambers throughout the remainder of 2022 and the first quarter of 2023. Last night, the ordinance was passed after the second reading.

*“Now that we have completed the process of approving a recreational marijuana ordinance, the City looks forward to expeditiously issuing licenses to allow dispensaries to open, create jobs, and generate tax revenue,” said **Tim Greimel, Mayor.***

The Zoning Text and Map Amendment Ordinance allows the uses in the four (4) overlay districts in the City, including: Downtown Pontiac, the Walton Overlay District, the Cesar E. Chavez Overlay District, and the Woodward Gateway Overlay District. The ordinance allows five (5) retailers in each overlay district except the Woodward Gateway Overlay District, where it will allow for two (2) retailers.

Additionally, City Council authorized six (6) social equity retailers in the City located in the four (4) overlay districts. There are some unique uses in this ordinance that City leaders hope will make Pontiac a destination, including the allowance of up to six (6) designated consumption facilities in Downtown Pontiac and five (5) Class A Microbusinesses in the City. Many of these uses will improve their sites by rebuilding on a site or repurposing existing buildings for the new business.

(continued)

*“The Pontiac City Council put in the time and carefully weighed all considerations when enacting these policies to allow adult-use marijuana businesses in our community. We worked to integrate this approach with the previously enacted medical marijuana policies, which was a complex task,” said **Mike McGuinness, City Council President**. “Our goal was to permit this emerging and still-evolving industry in a way that would most benefit Pontiac residents, property owners, and taxpayers.”*

This Ordinance also restricts caregivers to the M-1 and IP-1 zoning districts in the City and does not allow caregiving in residential neighborhoods.

Based on last night’s adoption, the Zoning Ordinance takes effect on April 18 and the Business Ordinance takes effect May 4. Sixty (60) days after the Business Ordinance takes effect—**July 5, 2023—the City Clerk will begin to accept applications for:**

- Grower
- Processor
- Safety Compliance
- Secure Transporter

Sixty (60) days after the May 4 effective date of the Business Ordinance—**July 5, 2023—the City Clerk will set a 21-day application window for:**

- Retailer
- Social Equity Retailer
- Class A Microbusiness
- Designated Consumption Establishment

The text of the proposed ordinance that was being reviewed and considered by Council may be found on the City website on the Council page (**click on Meeting Agendas and Minutes**, April 4, 2023). You may also **call the City Clerk’s Office at (248) 758-3200** to discuss other ways of reviewing the information.

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