



Marijuana Establishments and Registered Marijuana Dispensaries Frequently Asked Questions (November 14, 2018)

Thank you for your interest in operating a marijuana establishment or medical marijuana treatment center (also referred to as a Registered Marijuana Dispensary ("RMD")), in Framingham. The following responses to Frequently Asked Questions are intended to provide you with basic information on the City of Framingham's ("City") requirements for obtaining a Host Community Agreement ("HCA") required for a marijuana establishment or medical marijuana treatment center to do business in Framingham.

Where do I start if I have questions about locating a marijuana establishment or RMD in Framingham?

The City requires that marijuana establishments and RMDs seeking an HCA submit a Marijuana Advisory Team (MAT) Application through the City's website at <https://www.framinghamma.gov/2695/Marijuana-Regulation>. A meeting between the MAT and the applicant for an HCA will be scheduled once a completed MAT Application is submitted.

What is the Marijuana Advisory Team (MAT)?

The MAT is a formal advisory group to the Mayor consisting of the Chief Operating Officer, the Building Commissioner, the Planning Board Administrator, the Director of the Department of Public Health, the Chief of Fire, the Chief of Police, the Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"), and the City Solicitor, or their respective designees. The MAT reviews HCA applications and make recommendations to the Mayor for review of the same.

How many marijuana retail establishments will be allowed to open in Framingham?

As set forth in Article VIII, Section 9.3 of the Framingham General By-Laws, the maximum number marijuana retail establishments in Framingham is set at six. However, the City is not obligated to enter into an HCA with any applicant, or to do so within set time period.

Has the City entered into any HCA?

Yes, prior to the Town's adoption of a City form of government on January 1, 2018, the Board of Selectmen entered into three HCAs on October 20, 2015 with three entities, who were then applying to the Commonwealth's Department of Public Health for certification as RMDs. These entities are Beacon Compassion Center, Inc., n/k/a Beacon Compassion, Inc.; CommCan, Inc.; and Manna Wellness, Inc., n/k/a Temescal Wellness, Inc. To date, only Temescal Wellness, Inc. has located in Framingham.

The City's Mayor entered into an HCA with MCR Labs, LLC, an Independent Testing Laboratory, in July 2018.

How are marijuana establishments and RMDs regulated in Framingham?

Both marijuana establishments and RMDs must comply with the City's Zoning Bylaws and obtain operating permits from the City's Board of Health.

Where can marijuana establishments and RMD be located in Framingham?

- An RMD may locate in accordance with Department of Public Health and Cannabis Control Commission regulations promulgated as 105 CMR 725.00 and 935 CMR 500.00, respectively.
- A Marijuana Establishment may be located only in those districts indicated in the City's Zoning Bylaws and must undergo Minor Site Plan Review (Section VI.F of the Framingham Zoning By-Law).
- A Marijuana Retail Establishment may be located only within the Marijuana Retail Establishment Overlay District.
- An Independent Testing Laboratory may locate where Research, Development & Laboratories may be located in accordance with Section II.B.6.A of the Framingham Zoning By-Laws.
- A Marijuana Cultivator and Marijuana Product Manufacturer may locate where processing, assembly, and manufacturing may be located in accordance with Section II.B.6.C of the Framingham Zoning By-Laws. A Marijuana Cultivator, which may be a sole licensee or co-located with a licensed Marijuana Product Manufacturer under the same ownership, shall be permitted within the R-4 Zoning District only on a parcel of land or one or more contiguous parcels of land in common ownership, consisting of 15 acres or more, and engaged in "farming" or "agriculture" as defined in M.G.L. c. 128 §1A.

Does Site Plan Review approval and Board of Health Permits Guarantee a Host Community Agreement (HCA)?

No. Approval for Site Plan Review and/or Board of Health Permits (Marijuana Operating Permit) does not guarantee that the City will enter into an HCA with the City.

Did Framingham adopt a Marijuana Establishment tax?

Yes, the City adopted a 3.0% local excise tax on Adult Use Marijuana sales.

Where can I learn more about adult use marijuana in Massachusetts?

See the Cannabis Control Commission's website at: <https://mass-cannabis-control.com/>