

Marijuana Advisory Team (MAT) Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2022 at 1:30 PM

Location of Meeting: Executive conference room and via Zoom

Guests: None

MAT Team Present:

Michael Tusino, COO

Officer Keith Strange, Police Department

Deputy Chief Victor Pereira, Police Department

Dana Haagensen, Director of Administration, Fire Department

Robin E. Williams, Environmental Health Manager, Department of Public Health

Shane O'Brien, Senior Planner, PCD

Mollie Amaral, Community Outreach Coordinator, PCD

Legal Counsel:

Amanda Zuretti, Esq., Petrini & Associates, P.C., designee for City Solicitor

Minutes:

Mr. Tusino called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

Discussion took place regarding HCA renewal process (expectations, process for applications).

Mr. O'Brien stated having received an inquiry from Temescal Wellness of Massachusetts Holdings, LLC ("Temescal") and asked how the MAT team should proceed with expiring HCAs.

Mr. Tusino stated that applicants should reapply, and that application would be reviewed and either approved or the applicant would be invited to discuss any pending issues.

Mr. O'Brien asked if we should reach out to applicants to let them know that their HCA will be expiring soon, or have them email us that they are expiring.

Mr. Tusino stated that we should reach out and let applicants know that their HCA would be expiring soon.

Mr. O'Brien stated that an inquiry from Temescal was received regarding their HCA expiring in May, and that they would like to get started with the renewal process. Mr. O'Brien stated that he wanted to have a discussion based on the email to make sure we have a process. Mr. O'Brien stated that they would like to expand and may have to bring them to a meeting for review.

Ms. Zuretti stated that she believes that Union Twist, Inc. ("Union Twist")'s HCA would be expiring in March, 2022.

Mr. O'Brien stated that he doesn't believe that Union Twist has reached out to us.

Officer Strange stated that Union Twist are in the final phases for permission from the Cannabis Control Commission to open, and that he can reach out to see if they have a target date to open.

Ms. Williams stated that Union Twist has not applied with the City's Health Department for necessary certificates, and they would need to apply before they are able to open.

Mr. O'Brien gave a suggestion for a renewal application with examples of questions.

Ms. Zuretti stated that there would be a City Council Ordinance and Rules Subcommittee ("Subcommittee") meeting on January 25, 2022 to discuss a possible amendment to Article VII, Section 9.3 of the General Ordinances to see if the City will increase the number for marijuana retailers beyond the current limitation to six. Ms. Zuretti stated that the Subcommittee can make a recommendation to go to the full City Council for a vote.

Mr. O'Brien stated that he did a site visit at Beacon Compassion, Inc. ("Beacon") and that he received a public records request from Peter D'Agostino looking for information regarding costs incurred by the City and they are looking to renew their RMD HCA. [Note: This is a requirement under 935 CMR 103 (4) (f): "A Marijuana Establishment shall submit as a component of the renewal application documentation that the establishment requested from its Host Community the records of any cost to a city or town reasonably related to the operation of the establishment, which would include the city's or town's anticipated and actual expenses resulting from the operation of the establishment in its community. The applicant shall provide a copy of the electronic or written request, which should include the date of the request, and either the substantive response(s) received or an attestation that no response was received from the city or town. The request should state that, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 94G, § 3(d), any cost to a city or town imposed by the operation of a Marijuana Establishment or MTC shall be documented and considered a public record as defined by M.G.L. c. 4, § 7, cl. 26."]

Ms. Zuretti stated that it is required for these entities to make these inquiries to municipalities.

Mr. Tusino stated that he had a conversation with Temescal and they would be willing to write a check for the community impact fee. Mr. Tusino asked what percent the MAT team thinks is fair for renewal.

Mr. O'Brien stated that he will do research on HCA's/impact fees and see how other communities handle renewals.

Mr. Haagensen asked about funds and budgeting.

Conversation continued about recordkeeping and funds.

Mr. O'Brien stated that Colors Hub, Inc., a prospective applicant for an HCA that is a marijuana research facility requested to waive their HCA. Mr. O'Brien stated that they have not been certified from the CCC, not started the CCC process, and sent us over a business plan and memo from their attorney's office.

Mr. O'Brien stated that they cannot obtain permits if they are not certified with the CCC and need information regarding research licenses.

Ms. Zuretti indicated that the HCA is a requirement under M.G.L. c. 94G, section 3(d), but that she would look into the CCC regulations regarding waivers.

Ms. Williams asked if Trulieve is all set and asked Officer Strange to let her know when their security plan is signed off on in order to issue a Health Department permit.

Mr. O'Brien stated Beacon Compassions progress at their site.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:17 PM