



# City of Cambridge

## Executive Department

**LOUIS A. DePASQUALE**  
City Manager

**LISA C. PETERSON**  
Deputy City Manager

July 30, 2018

The Honorable City Council

***Re: Response to A.R. No. 18-75 Re: Proposed Zoning for Cannabis Retail Stores and Cannabis Production Facilities, Including Small Cultivation and/or Manufacturing Facilities***

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Attached is a draft zoning petition concerning the regulation of cannabis establishments in the City of Cambridge in response to Awaiting Report Item Number 18-75. It includes proposed zoning for cannabis retail stores and cannabis production facilities, including small cultivation and/or manufacturing establishments. This proposal would amend the current zoning provisions for medical marijuana dispensaries and establish a system of rules for establishments trading in cannabis for medical use, non-medical use, or both. It would also clarify how cannabis research and testing facilities would be classified under current land use regulations.

This draft zoning petition has been informed by discussions that have taken place over the past several months at the City Council and its Public Safety Committee, Neighborhood and Long-Term Planning Committee, and Economic Development and University Relations Committee. For example, the draft zoning petition proposes more flexible zoning allowances for Economic Empowerment Applicants, as certified by the state, who promote economic development in areas that have had historically high rates of arrest, conviction, and incarceration related to marijuana crimes. The draft zoning petition also proposes criteria to promote the continued availability of products to registered medical marijuana patients. Items that might be subject to further consideration have been identified through annotations.

This draft zoning petition was prepared with the participation of several departments, including the Law Department, Community Development Department, Public Health Department, Inspectional Services Department, Police Department, Traffic, Parking and Transportation Department, and Department of Weights and Measures.

As requested in Awaiting Report 18-75, the attached draft zoning petition incorporates what we consider best practices for zoning regulation of adult use cannabis. In addition to zoning, other issues related to cannabis establishments will be discussed in the future through the process of instituting Host Community Agreements, which are required by state regulations. As economic development practices are considered, we will incorporate equity practices and



benefits for Cambridge residents as a component of Host Community Agreements to the greatest extent possible.

I am requesting that the Council accept this draft as a City Council zoning petition and refer that petition to the Planning Board and Ordinance Committee, which will begin the formal hearing process. The specifics of the proposal will undergo further review and consideration at these hearings, and may be amended by the City Council prior to being considered for adoption.

Very truly yours,

Louis A. DePasquale  
City Manager