

MEMORANDUM

To: Public Works, Planning and Transportation Committee

From: Krista Braun, Planning and Zoning Manager
Eric Waggoner, Director

Date: January 8, 2020

Re: Discussion on Moratorium for Recreational Cannabis Businesses

The Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, which legalizes the production, sale, and use of recreational cannabis effective January 1, 2020, allows local governments (including counties) to enact “reasonable” zoning regulations in order to mitigate any impacts from recreational cannabis businesses. However, the nascent status of recreational cannabis regulation in the State of Illinois poses many uncharted policy and planning issues to local units of government. Currently, there is a deficit of comprehensive and conclusive data regarding the impacts at a local level in Lake County. A moratorium, which would impose a temporary prohibition on all recreational cannabis business establishments within unincorporated Lake County, is an effective means to allow additional time to consider impacts of recreational use and weigh potential regulatory options.

The staff of the Planning, Building and Development Department have prepared, for Committee discussion and direction, a draft Moratorium Ordinance for Recreational Cannabis Business establishments for a period of one year. This moratorium will provide the opportunity for staff to study the community impacts in and around those areas in Illinois (including municipal areas in and around Lake County) that contain or will contain approved recreational cannabis businesses as well as to collect data from other states that have legalized recreational usage. Data collection would include comparative and correlative statistics on use/abuse of other intoxicating substances. Additionally, this time would be used to gather feedback from unincorporated Lake County residents.

During the time period within the moratorium, staff proposes the attached work plan with subsequent County Board presentation and discussion of staff’s findings and potential next steps in early 2021.

**PROPOSED AREAS AND TIMEFRAME OF STUDY
OF RECREATIONAL CANNABIS IMPACTS IN 2020**

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/TAXATION (JULY-DECEMBER)
 - a. Revenue generation
 - b. Allocation of revenue
2. PUBLIC SAFETY/LAW ENFORCEMENT (JANUARY-DECEMBER)
 - a. Enforcement
 - i. Property/personal crime
 - ii. Traffic (DUIs, POS-related crimes)
 - iii. Other
 - b. Resource Costs
 - i. Equipment (field tests, etc.)
 - ii. Staffing shifts/Additional Personnel needs
 - iii. Staff Training
3. PUBLIC HEALTH (JANUARY-DECEMBER)
 - a. Youth Impacts Surveys/Statistics
 - b. Medical Facilities/ER visits/Hospitalizations Statistics (to the extent available)
 - c. Resource Costs (Additional Training and Staffing needs)
4. PUBLIC INPUT/PARTICIPATION (MAY-AUGUST)
 - a. Town Hall/Public Forum series: meetings in various Lake County locations (TBD)