

MEMORANDUM

To: Zoning Board of Appeals

From: Krista Braun, Planning and Zoning Manager

Date: March 30, 2021

Re: Proposed amendments to Chapter 151 of the Lake County, Illinois, Code of Ordinances relating to the regulation of adult-use cannabis businesses.

Effective January 1, 2020, the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act allows for the establishment of adult-use cannabis businesses and the sale and consumption of adult-use cannabis products within the State. The Act authorizes local governments (including counties) to enact “reasonable zoning regulations” to mitigate impacts from adult-use cannabis businesses. At the direction of the Lake County Board, Planning, Building and Development Department (PB&D) staff have prepared a set of draft zoning amendments to Chapter 151 of the Lake County, Illinois Code of Ordinances that would allow adult-use cannabis businesses in the unincorporated areas of Lake County, subject to certain restrictions. The draft amendments are based on the Adult-Use Cannabis Task Force’s model regulations that were developed in 2019 as well as additional research on best practices that was conducted during the County’s moratorium that was in place in 2020.

Following a preliminary introduction and discussion by PB&D staff at the Lake County Committee of the Whole meeting on January 8, 2021 and subsequent discussions at the Public Works, Planning, and Transportation (PWPT) Committee meetings in late January and early February 2021, the Lake County Board passed a resolution on February 9, 2021, directing the Zoning Board of Appeals to conduct a public hearing on the draft text amendments relating to the regulation of adult-use cannabis businesses in the unincorporated areas. Following its review of the proposed amendments, the ZBA will forward its recommendation to the PWPT Committee for their consideration. Following the Committee’s review and recommendation, final action on the amendments will be taken by the County Board.