

**CITY OF PACIFIC, WASHINGTON  
ORDINANCE NO. 2015-1890**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO THE RECREATIONAL AND MEDICAL USE OF MARIJUANA, EXTENDING THE INTERIM ZONING ORDINANCE ADOPTED ON JULY 28, 2014, UNDER ORDINANCE NO. 2014-1866, PROHIBITING THE SITING, ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF ANY STRUCTURES, PROPERTY OR USES RELATING TO RECREATIONAL OR MEDICAL MARIJUANA PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, CULTIVATION, STORAGE, SALE, DELIVERY, EXCHANGE OR BARTERING, FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ADDRESSED IN THE PUBLIC HEARING ON JANUARY 20, 2015 BY THE PACIFIC CITY COUNCIL.

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**MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

WHEREAS, since 1970, federal law has prohibited the manufacture and possession of marijuana as a Schedule I drug, based on the federal government’s categorization of marijuana as having a “high potential for abuse, lack of any accepted medical use, and absence of any accepted safety for use in medically supervised treatment.” *Gonzales v. Raich*, 545 U.S. 1, 14 (2005), Controlled Substance Act (CSA), 84 Stat. 1242, 21 U.S.C. 801 *et seq*; and

WHEREAS, the voters of the State of Washington approved Initiative 692 (codified as RCW 69.51A in November 1998); and

WHEREAS, the intent of Initiative 692 was that qualifying “patients with terminal or debilitating illnesses who, in the judgment of their physicians, would benefit from the medical use of marijuana, shall not be found guilty of a crime under state law,” (RCW 69.51A.005), but that nothing in the law “shall be construed to supersede Washington state law prohibiting the acquisition, possession, manufacture, sale or use of marijuana for non-medical purposes” (RCW 69.51A.020); and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature passed ESSSB 5073 in 2011, which directed employees of the Washington State Departments of Health and Agriculture to authorize and license commercial businesses that produce, process or dispense cannabis; and

WHEREAS, this bill required that the Department of Health develop a secure registration system for licensed producers, processors and dispensers, but these provisions, together with the provisions relating to dispensaries and the definitions, were vetoed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, ESSSB 5073 provided that a qualifying patient or his/her designated care provider are presumed to be in compliance, and not subject to criminal or civil sanctions/penalties/consequences, under certain defined circumstances (participation in the registry, possession of a limited number of plants or usable cannabis, cultivation of a limited number of plants in the qualifying patient or designated care provider’s residence or in a collective garden); and

WHEREAS, Washington's Governor vetoed all of the provisions relevant to medical marijuana dispensaries in ESSSB 5073 but left the provisions relating to cultivation of marijuana for medical use by qualified patients individually within their residences and in collective gardens; and

WHEREAS, ESSSB 5073 was codified in chapter 69.51A RCW; and

WHEREAS, RCW 69.51A.130 allows local jurisdictions to adopt zoning requirements, business license requirements, health and safety requirements, and to impose business taxes on the production, processing or dispensing of medical cannabis or cannabis products, which the Washington Court of Appeals has interpreted to authorize complete bans on medical marijuana uses, such as collective gardens (*Cannabis Action Coalition v. City of Kent*, 322 P.3d 1246, 1253 (2014)); and

### **RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA**

WHEREAS, in November of 2012, the Washington voters passed I-502, which directed the Washington State Liquor Control Board (LCB) to regulate recreational marijuana by licensing and taxing recreational marijuana producers, processors and retailers; and

WHEREAS, on the LCB adopted regulations (chapter 314-55 WAC) which: prohibit the establishment of recreational marijuana businesses within 1,000 feet of certain identified sensitive uses, require criminal history background checks for licensees, establish qualifications for licensees, limits the amount of space available for recreational marijuana production, describes the manner in which marijuana growing may take place,<sup>1</sup> limits the average inventory on the licensed premises at any time, limits the number of retailers within counties and cities within the counties based on estimated consumption and population data, establishes insurance requirements for licensees, describes the security requirements, requires employees to wear badges, requiring alarm and surveillance systems on the licensed premises, requires that licensees track marijuana from seed to sale, establishes the manner in which free samples of marijuana may be provided, prohibits the sale of soil amendments, fertilizers and other crop production aids, identifies transportation requirements, sign requirements, recordkeeping requirements, identifies a mechanism for enforcement of violations, including the failure to pay taxes, specifies marijuana infused product serving sizes, maximum number of servings and limitations on transactions, identifies marijuana waste disposal restrictions, describes the process for quality assurance testing, extraction and the requirements for packaging and labeling, describes advertising limitations, explains the process for licensing suspension, revocation and penalties for violations; and

WHEREAS, according to the administrative rules, the LCB will determine whether the recreational marijuana business licensee is within 1,000 feet of the sensitive uses identified in WAC 314-55-050(10) and shall not issue the license if it is within this area; and

WHEREAS, the LCB has begun issuance of licenses for recreational marijuana uses; and

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<sup>1</sup> Under WAC 314-55-075, recreational marijuana production must take place within a fully enclosed secure indoor facility or greenhouse with rigid walls, a roof, and doors. Outdoor production may take place in non-rigid greenhouses, other structures, or an expanse of open or cleared ground fully enclosed by a physical barrier. To obscure public view of the premises, outdoor production must be enclosed by a sight obscure wall or fence at least eight feet high. Outdoor producers must meet security requirements described in WAC 314-55-083.

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2014, the Washington State Attorney General issued an opinion finding that local governments are not preempted by state law from banning the location of a recreational marijuana business, even if the business has been licensed by the LCB (AGO 2014 No. 2)); and

WHEREAS, in the same Attorney General Opinion, the Attorney General also gave the opinion that cities could establish restrictions on recreational marijuana businesses licensed by the LCB, even if such restrictions made it “impractical for a licensed marijuana business to locate within their jurisdiction” (AGO 2014 No. 2); and

WHEREAS, the detailed licensing and comprehensive regulatory system for recreational marijuana in I-502 is substantially different from what little remains in chapter 69.51A RCW to regulate medical marijuana after the Governor’s veto; and

WHEREAS, on August 29, 2013, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a Memorandum to all United States Attorneys, acknowledging that several states had adopted laws authorizing marijuana production, distribution and possession by establishing a regulatory scheme for these purposes; and

WHEREAS, in this Memo, the DOJ advised that in recent years, the DOJ has “focused its efforts on certain law enforcement priorities that are particularly important to the federal government,” such as: (a) preventing the distribution of marijuana to minors; (b) preventing revenue from the sale of marijuana from going to criminal enterprises, gangs, and cartels; (c) preventing the diversion of marijuana from states where it is legal under state law in some form to other states; (d) preventing state-authorized marijuana activity from being used as a cover or pretext for the trafficking of other illegal drugs or other illegal activity; (e) preventing violence and the use of firearms in the cultivation and distribution of marijuana; (f) preventing drugged driving and the exacerbation of other adverse public health consequences associated with marijuana use; (g) preventing the growing of marijuana on public lands and the attendant public safety and environmental dangers posed by marijuana production on public lands; and (h) preventing marijuana possession or use on federal property; and

WHEREAS, in this Memo, the DOJ warned that “[i]f state enforcement efforts are not sufficiently robust to protect against the harms [identified above] the federal government may seek to challenge the regulatory structure itself in addition to continuing to bring individual enforcement actions, including criminal prosecutions, focused on those harms”; and

WHEREAS, in this Memo, the DOJ warned that a regulatory system adequate to this task “must not only contain robust controls and procedures on paper, it must also be effective in practice”; and

WHEREAS, in this Memo, the DOJ advised that “in exercising prosecutorial discretion, prosecutors should not consider the size or commercial nature of a marijuana operation alone as a proxy for assessing whether marijuana trafficking implicates the Department’s enforcement priorities [listed above]” and that federal prosecutors “should continue to review marijuana cases on a case-by-case basis and weigh all available information and evidence, including, but not limited to, whether the operation is demonstrably in compliance with a strong but effective state regulatory system”; and

WHEREAS, a comparison of the LCB's rules for recreational marijuana and chapter 69.51A RCW for medical marijuana demonstrates that there is virtually no state regulatory system for medical marijuana, and that even if local governments decided to adopt the type of medical marijuana system that would protect against the harms identified in the federal government's enforcement priorities, most local governments do not have the resources to be able to enforce such regulations; and

WHEREAS, after considering the August 29, 2013 DOJ Memo, the City has determined that even if the City decided to adopt an ordinance on the subject of medical marijuana in order to provide the type of regulatory system that the DOJ might find adequate to protect against the harms identified in the federal government's enforcement priorities, the City does not have the resources to enforce such a system; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted Ordinances 1804, 1823, 1848, 1855 and 1866, adopting moratoria or interim zoning on marijuana uses; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2015, the Council considered this ordinance during a public hearing advertised for this purpose; NOW, THEREFORE,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PACIFIC DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Definitions. The following definitions apply to the terms used in this Ordinance:

A. "Cannabis" or "Marijuana" means all parts of the plant *Cannabis*, whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds, or resin. For the purposes of this ordinance, "cannabis" does not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks, except the resin extracted there from, fiber, oil, or cake, or the sterilized seed of the plant which is incapable of germination. The term "cannabis" includes cannabis products and useable cannabis.

B. "Cannabis products" means products that contain cannabis or cannabis extracts, have a measurable THC concentration greater than three-tenths of one percent, and are intended for human consumption or application, including, but not limited to, edible products, tinctures, and lotions. The term "cannabis products" does not include useable cannabis. The definition of "cannabis products" as a measurement of THC concentration only applies to the provisions of this ordinance and shall not be considered applicable to any criminal laws related to marijuana or cannabis.

C. "Child Care Center" means an entity that regularly provides child day care and early learning services for a group of children for periods of less than twenty-four hours licensed by the Washington State Department of Early Learning, under chapter 170-295 WAC.

D. "Collective Garden" means those gardens described in RCW 69.51A.085.

E. "Cultivation" means the planting, growing, harvesting, drying or processing of marijuana plants or any part thereof.

F. “Deliver or Delivery” means the actual or constructive transfer from one person to another of a substance, whether or not there is an agency relationship.

G. “Dispensary, Medical Marijuana” means: any location that does not meet the definition of a “Collective Garden” and does not have a license from the Liquor Control Board of the State of Washington for a marijuana producer, processor or retailer pursuant to I-502, where medical cannabis or marijuana is processed, dispensed, selected, measured, compounded, packaged, labeled or sold to a qualified patient, designated provider or any other member of the public. It also includes any vehicle or other mode of transportation, stationary or mobile, which is used to transport, distribute, deliver, sell or give away medical cannabis or marijuana to a qualified patient, designated provider or any other member of the public.

H. “Dispense” means the interpretation of a prescription or order for medical cannabis, and pursuant to that prescription or order, the proper selection, measuring, compounding, labeling, or packaging necessary to prepare the prescription or order for delivery.

I. “Elementary School” means a school for early education that provides the first four to eight years of basic education and is recognized by the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

J. “Game Arcade” means an entertainment venue featuring primarily video games, simulators, and/or other amusement devices where persons under twenty-one years of age are not restricted.

K. “Indoors” means within a fully enclosed and secure structure that complies with the Washington State Building Code, as adopted by the City, that has a complete roof enclosure supported by connecting walls extending from the ground to the roof, and a foundation, slab, or equivalent base to which the floor is securely attached. The structure must be secure against unauthorized entry, accessible only through one or more lockable doors, and constructed of solid materials that cannot easily be broken through, such as 2” by 4” or thicker studs overlain with 3/8” or thicker plywood or equivalent materials. Plastic sheeting, regardless of gauge, or similar products do not satisfy this requirement.

L. “Legal parcel” means a parcel of land for which one legal title exists. Where contiguous legal parcels are under common ownership or control, such legal parcels shall be counted as a single parcel for purposes of this ordinance.

M. “Library” means an organized collection of resources made accessible to the public for reference or borrowing supported with money derived from taxation.

N. “Marijuana processor” means a person licensed by the State Liquor Control Board to process marijuana into useable marijuana and marijuana-infused products, package and label usable marijuana and marijuana-infused products for sale in retail outlets, and sell usable marijuana and marijuana-infused products as wholesale to marijuana retailers.

O. “Marijuana producer” means a person licensed by the State Liquor Control Board to produce and sell marijuana at wholesale to marijuana processors and other marijuana producers.

P. "Marijuana-infused products" means products that contain marijuana or marijuana extracts and are intended for human use. The term "marijuana-infused products" does not include useable marijuana.

Q. "Marijuana retailer" means a person licensed by the State Liquor Control Board to sell usable marijuana and marijuana-infused products in a retail outlet.

R. "Outdoors" means any location that is not "indoors" within a fully enclosed and secure structure as defined herein.

S. "Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, association, joint venture, government, governmental subdivision of agency or any other legal or commercial entity.

T. "Playground" means a public outdoor recreation area for children, usually equipped with swings, slides and other playground equipment, owned and/or managed by a city, county, state or federal government.

U. "Process" means to handle or process cannabis in preparation for medical or recreational use.

V. "Produce or Production" means to manufacture, plant, grow or harvest cannabis or marijuana.

W. "Public Park" means an area of land for the enjoyment of the public, having facilities for rest and/or recreation, such as a baseball diamond or basketball court, owned and/or managed by a city, county, state, federal government or metropolitan park district. Public park does not include trails.

X. "Public place" includes streets and alleys of incorporated cities and towns; state or county or township highways or roads; buildings and grounds used for school purposes; public dance halls and grounds adjacent thereto; premises where goods and services are offered to the public for retail sale; public buildings, public meeting halls, lobbies, halls and dining rooms of hotels, restaurants, theatres, stores, garages, and filling stations which are open to and are generally used by the public and to which the public is permitted to have unrestricted access; railroad trains, stages, buses, ferries, and other public conveyances of all kinds and character, and the depots, stops, and waiting rooms used in conjunction therewith which are open to unrestricted use and access by the public; publicly owned bathing beaches, parks, or playgrounds; and all other places of like or similar nature to which the general public has unrestricted right of access, and which are generally used by the public.

Y. "Public Transit Center" means a facility located outside of the public right of way that is owned and managed by a transit agency or city, county, state or federal government for the express purpose of staging people and vehicles where several bus or other transit routes converge. They serve as efficient hubs to allow bus riders from various locations to assemble at a central point to take advantage of express trips or other route to route transfers.

Z. "Recreation center or facility" means a supervised center that provides a broad range of activities and events intended primarily for use by persons under twenty-one years of age, owned and/or managed by a charitable nonprofit organization, city, county, state or federal government.

AA. “Residential treatment facility” means a facility providing for treatment of drug and alcohol dependency;

BB. “Retail outlet” means a location licensed by the State Liquor Control Board for the retail sale of useable marijuana and marijuana-infused products.

CC. “Secondary School” means a high and/or middle school: A school for students who have completed their primary education, usually attended by children in grades seven to twelve and recognized by the Washington State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**Section 2: Findings.** The Council adopts all of the “whereas” sections of this Ordinance as findings to support this interim zoning ordinance, as well as the following:

A. The purpose of this interim zoning ordinance is to maintain the status quo while the City drafts, considers and adopts a new ordinance on the subject of medical cannabis/marijuana and recreational marijuana.

B. The City will consider adoption and enforcement of such an ordinance during the next six months, while this interim zoning ordinance is in effect. During the period of time that this interim zoning ordinance is in effect, the City will also consider the manner in which the negative impacts and secondary effects associated with the marijuana uses (on-going or predicted) in the City can be ameliorated, including but not limited to, the demands that will be placed upon scarce City policing, legal, policy and administrative resources; neighborhood disruption, increased transient visitors and intimidation; the exposure of school-age children and other sensitive residents to marijuana, illegal sales to both minors and adults; fraud in issuing, obtaining or using medical marijuana prescriptions, murders, robberies, burglaries, assaults, drug trafficking and other violent crimes.

C. The State of Washington has adopted a strict regulatory and enforcement system for the cultivation, processing and sale of recreational marijuana. The Liquor Control Board has recently begun issuing the licenses, but it is still too early to determine whether (or the manner in which) the State will enforce these rules. The Council also acknowledges that the State has not performed any environmental analyses that will assist cities, towns and counties in the adoption of local regulations addressing marijuana uses, or the environmental impacts associated with individual licenses and that municipalities must therefore either develop their own analyses or observe these impacts after-the-fact (or, *after* these marijuana uses locate and begin operation in cities, towns and counties throughout Washington.) Then, the municipalities will be required to “fix” the problems stemming from these uses with their already scarce resources.

D. No part of this interim ordinance is intended to or shall be deemed to conflict with federal law, including but not limited to, the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. Section 800 *et seq.*, the Uniform Controlled Substances Act (chapter 69.50 RCW) nor to otherwise permit any activity that is prohibited under either Act, or any other local, state or federal law, statute, rule or regulation. This interim ordinance is not intended to address or invite litigation over the question whether the State of Washington’s medical or recreational marijuana laws (or this City’s laws) satisfy the federal government’s enforcement priorities. Nothing in this interim ordinance shall be construed to supersede Washington state law prohibiting the acquisition, possession, manufacture, sale or use of medical cannabis or recreational marijuana in any manner not authorized by chapter 69.51A RCW or chapter 69.50 RCW. Nothing in this interim

ordinance shall be construed to supersede legislation prohibiting persons from engaging in conduct that endangers others, or that creates a nuisance, as defined herein. It is the intention of the City Council that this interim ordinance be interpreted to be compatible with federal and state enactments and in furtherance of the public purposes that those enactments encompass.

**Section 3. Interim Ordinance Adopted.** This interim ordinance is immediately adopted for a period of six months in order to provide the City adequate time to hold a public hearing on the secondary land use impacts associated with the location and siting of structures and uses in which medical and recreational marijuana production, marijuana processing or marijuana retailing may take place and adopt a “permanent” zoning ordinance. The City Council’s current plan is to hold this public hearing on January 20, 2015 and to adopt a “permanent” zoning ordinance within thirty (30) days thereafter.

**Section 4. Effect of Interim Zoning Ordinance.** This interim zoning ordinance extends the previous interim zoning ordinance for another six months, and imposes a prohibition on the acceptance of all development permit and business license applications for any structure, use or operation involving marijuana production, marijuana processing or marijuana retailing, as the same are defined in this Ordinance. All such development permit and business license applications shall be rejected and returned to the applicant.

**Section 5. Duration of Interim Zoning Ordinance.** This interim zoning ordinance shall commence on the effective date set forth in Section 10 herein. The City Council plans to hold a public hearing on this interim zoning ordinance on January 20, 2015. This interim zoning ordinance shall not terminate until six (6) months after the date of adoption, or at the time all of the events described in Section 3 have been accomplished, whichever is sooner. The Council shall make the decision to terminate the moratorium by ordinance, and termination shall not otherwise be presumed to have occurred.

**Section 6. Public Hearing on Moratorium.** Pursuant to RCW 36.70A.390 and RCW 35A.63.220, the City Council shall hold a public hearing on this interim zoning ordinance on January 20, 2015. During the next Council meeting immediately following, the City Council shall either adopt findings of fact on the subject of this interim zoning ordinance and either justify its continued imposition or adopt “permanent” zoning ordinance(s) relating to medical and recreational marijuana.

**Section 7. Declaration of Emergency.** The City Council hereby declares that an emergency exists necessitating that this interim zoning ordinance take effect immediately upon passage by a majority vote plus one of the whole membership of the Council, and that the same is not subject to a referendum.<sup>2</sup> If this interim zoning ordinance is not adopted immediately, applications for marijuana uses and business licenses could be submitted to the City and arguably become vested, leading to development that could be incompatible with the regulations eventually adopted by the City (after the process described herein). Therefore, the interim zoning ordinance must be adopted immediately as an emergency measure to protect the public health, safety and welfare, and to prevent the submission of applications to the City in an attempt to vest rights for an indefinite period of time.

**Section 8. Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be unconstitutional or unlawful by a court of competent jurisdiction, such

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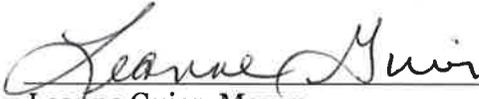
<sup>2</sup> RCW 35A.12.130 for code cities.

invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

**Section 9. Publication.** This Ordinance shall be published by an approved summary consisting of the title.

**Section 10. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon passage, having received the vote of a majority plus one of the entire Council.

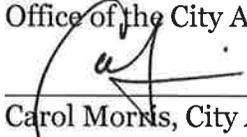
PASSED by the City Council of Pacific this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

  
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Leanne Guier, Mayor

AUTHENTICATED:

  
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Amy Stevenson-Ness, City Clerk.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Office of the City Attorney

  
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Carol Morris, City Attorney

PUBLISHED: January 30, 2015  
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 26, 2015