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Title: Council's Special Marijuana Working Group Recommendations Concerning Regulations to Address Licensing Hardships and Feasibility of a Board Relating to Licensure of Marijuana-Related Businesses

Presenter:
Bret Waters, Chair, Marijuana Working Group
Councilmember Larry Bagley

Sponsors:

Indexes:

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Attachments: 1. MJ Working Group Report - 2016-10-24 (Hardship Recommendations Update) with peter's comments, 2. Resolution 50-16, 3. 092616 MJ Working Group Report slides

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Council's Special Marijuana Working Group Recommendations Concerning Regulations to Address Licensing Hardships and Feasibility of a Board Relating to Licensure of Marijuana-Related Businesses

Presenter:

Bret Waters, Chair, Marijuana Working Group
Councilmember Larry Bagley

Summary:

On May 24, 2016, City Council adopted Resolution 50-16, endorsing the appointment of a Marijuana Working Group to study the issue of marijuana regulation within the City of Colorado Springs and to make recommendations to City Council and City staff.

The working group has met twice per month since the end of June to discuss Council's priorities as expressed in Resolution 50-16, specifically issues relating to hardships affecting existing licensees by the application of the moratorium, and prudent regulations that might address such hardships; and the feasibility and potential role of a permanent board or committee to deal with the licensure of marijuana-related businesses. The working group will make recommendations to City Council on both of those issues.

Previous Council Action:

City Council adopted Resolution 50-16 on May 24, 2016.

Background:

In May 2016, City Council extended an existing moratorium on the processing of any land use approval or licensing application for a new medical marijuana facility or the change of location of a currently operating medical marijuana facility within the City in order to provide the City time to study the issues related to land use, zoning, licensing and other necessary regulations with respect to medical marijuana facilities. A task force appointed in 2015 to study the issue had identified several recommendations leading to City Council's adoption of additional regulations concerning marijuana within the City, it also identified more issues that need further review, study, and evaluation. The members of the working group anticipate that, due to the evolving nature of the marijuana business in Colorado, that its work will be ongoing and lead to additional recommendations to City staff and City Council in the future.

Financial Implications:

N/A

Board/Commission Recommendation:

Members of the Marijuana Working Group will outline their recommendations relating to the two specific topics Council identified in Resolution 50-16.

Stakeholder Process:

Public attendance at working group meetings has been significant, and the working group has heard and considered input from industry groups, caregivers, neighborhood representatives, and other interested citizens.

Alternatives:

N/A

Proposed Motion:

N/A

N/A