

Jourdain, Brenda

Subject:

FW: Item No. 7C -- retail cannabis ordinance

From: Jacob Patterson [<mailto:jacob.patterson.esq@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 2:46 PM

Cc: Jones, Marie

Subject: Item No. 7C -- retail cannabis ordinance

Council-members,

I would like you to consider amending the staff recommendation for the updates to the land use table to permit retail cannabis uses in all commercial and industrial districts except neighborhood commercial (e.g., not at Colombi's or other neighborhood markets). In particular, I believe it should be permitted in the CBD. Requiring a use permit means that each application will need to go through a public review and approval process, which I believe is better than a blanket prohibition. We have significant vacancies in the CBD and a tourist-focused retail establishment, perhaps with edibles is a good fit--doesn't everyone want a new retail bakery back in downtown? Our budget deficit also suggests that new sources of revenue are necessary (in addition to cost cutting measures and operational realignment) and such businesses are likely to generate significant local tax revenues. The concerns about such businesses can be properly addressed through code enforcement or use permit modification (or revocation) should problems arise.

As an aside, you should review the administrative fines to make sure potential violations related to cannabis operations are significant enough to actually discourage violations, which has been a challenge in some communities. I am also not sure if our code already provides the City the option to elect to recover attorneys fees for code enforcement but it should be amended if it does not.

Regards,

--Jacob