



TOWN OF NATICK MASSACHUSETTS

MELISSA A. MALONE
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Melissa A. Malone, Town Administrator

cc: Chief Jim Hicks, Jim White, Ted Fields, John Townsend, Bill Chenard
Katie Laughman, Esq.

Date: October 25, 2019

Re: Adult Use Marijuana – Agenda 10.28.19

By way of outline for our discussion on Monday evening, Attorney Laughman will provide an overview of adult use marijuana licensing and selection of entities, while also sharing best practices and new developments with the Cannabis Control Commission.

Attached is a draft Request for Information (RFI) for Adult Use Marijuana Establishments and draft Rules and Regulations related to licensing of Adult Use Marijuana. There are a few policy issues that are designated TBD for our discussion within the RFI, specifically the evaluation committee and review criteria.

1. Who should be the designated entity/review committee to evaluate the RFI Applications?

Given the expertise of existing staff members in evaluating public health, safety, and other variables noted within the Addendum, I recommend that there be a five-member evaluation committee established by the Board of Selectmen (BOS).

Specifically, I recommend that the following individuals and/or designees within their offices comprise the evaluation committee: Chair of the BOS, Director of Public Health, Chief of Police, Director of Community & Economic Development, and Town Administrator.

2. Should the Review Criterion within the RIF Addendum include greater consideration for Economic Empowerment and Social Equity Applicants and/or local residency applicants seeking licenses?

At this time, the Commonwealth has ongoing efforts to ensure Economic Empowerment and Social Equity Applicants who meet a specific set of state criteria are able to participate in the adult use

marijuana industry. With respect to locally owned and operated entities, the marijuana industry is highly sophisticated. Given the complexity of the industry and high standards necessary to ensure compliance, it is my recommendation that the Review Criteria strictly incorporate best practices and exclude consideration for residency (which is temporal and subject to change).

Once these policy issues are determined, and your questions satisfactorily answered, it is recommended that we advertise the RFI for 30 days and advertise this in the following manner: Central Register, press release, newspaper, and related trade magazines. At this time, we anticipate receiving numerous applications for retail licenses. Once the RFI has closed, and depending upon the number of completed applications, we can then provide the Board with a timeframe when recommendations may be expected.