

# PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION

January 30, 2018

11:30 AM

Fairbanks Police Department (hosted by FECC)

PSC Members:

Joy Huntington (Seat A - 2018)

Stephen Heckman (Seat E - 2018)

Tom Temple (Seat B - 2018)

Jason Doxey (Seat F - 2019)

Rich Meyer (Seat C - 2019)

Jason McComas-Roe (Seat G - 2020)

Buzzy Chiu, Chairman (Seat D - 2020)

Thomas Carter (Seat H - 2020)

## Special Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chairman Chiu at 11:30am. Attendance: Tom Temple, Rich Meyer, Buzzy Chiu, Stephen Heckman, Jason Doxey, Jason McComas-Roe and Tom Carter. The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss 1) Marijuana Density recommendations and 2) 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Tap House Premises. Also in attendance were Dani Snider – City Clerk, Paul Ewers – City Attorney, Jeff Jacobs – PW Director, Kyle Green – Deputy Fire Marshal

### Marijuana Density Recommendation Discussion Summary.

Current political sentiment in general seems to be 3 basic positions

- Some people think the city has too many already or shouldn't allow marijuana retail stores.
- Some people think there should be limits set.
- Some people think the market should dictate how many stores there are.

Of note, marijuana licenses can transfer ownership, but not location. To open at a new location would require a new application.

Ms. Snider said that an ordinance needs to be adopted to set policies and administrative procedures to provide guidance for how her office is to handle the applications, including public notices, etc. A question was raised concerning the conflict between federal and state law. Mr. Ewers stated this was an issue being debated on a national level and only time will tell how it will be resolved. As State law allows the recreational use and sale of marijuana, the City needs to have an ordinance if it wishes to have those activities regulated in any way. Currently the City Council is approving the license requests without any specific guidelines for approval.

Discussion on the subject of limiting the number of facilities to a predetermined number met with strongly varied opinions. There was agreement that some factors, such as hours of business or even potentially proximity or concentration of facilities should be addressed but no agreement on setting a specific number. Arguments were made that marijuana establishments should be limited following the state guidelines for the number of alcohol licenses for a community (which currently are being exceeded by nearly 400%). Other arguments were made that by limiting the number of licenses, they are then turned into a commodity, and a government created monopoly is established. The market will determine how many retail stores the area can support. There was an argument made that the destructive influence of marijuana parroted that of alcohol and so access should be restricted. This argument was countered that alcohol and marijuana are different substances and that the impact of use on public safety is not an equivalent.

A consensus vote was taken on whether the commission should recommend that marijuana establishments be restricted. There were only 2 votes in favor of restriction, 4 in opposition to restriction, and 1 abstain. Through a motion approved unanimously, Chairman Chiu was directed to report to that only 2 of the 7 commission members recommend restricting licenses by population.

As to other elements of the proposed ordinance, there was significant discussion regarding the lack of specificity or appropriateness of most of section 12.14. A motion passed 6-1 that the PSC supports an ordinance but wants to see more specificity, particularly in section 14-214, and does not support it in its current form.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Tap House Premises Extension:

The second topic on the agenda: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Tap House Premises extension was tabled to another meeting, date to be determined. The meeting adjourned at 1:08pm.