

A billboard advertisement for cannabis retailers. The billboard is divided into two main color sections: orange on the left and teal on the right. On the orange section, there is a circular logo for the 'BUREAU OF MARIJUANA CONTROL' featuring a stylized plant. The teal section contains white text. The top line of text reads 'Support the legal marketplace. The difference is clear.' Below this, in smaller text, it says 'Get #weedwise. Find legal retailers at:'. The bottom line of text is 'CApotcheck.com'. To the right of the billboard, a portion of a building with a sign that says 'OUTFRONT' is visible.

Support the legal
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difference is clear.

Get #weedwise. Find legal retailers at:

CApotcheck.com

Zoning Ordinance
Amendment #23-01

Commercial
Cannabis
Business Permits

June 7, 2023

Background

- In 2018, Commercial Cannabis Business Permits became part of the Zoning Ordinance
- Both retail (dispensaries) and non-retail uses (cultivation, distribution, and laboratory testing) require a commercial cannabis business permit reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission
- Dispensaries are the only cannabis use that has a merit based approval system with a maximum number of permits (originally 4 permits City-wide)
- Other cannabis uses are reviewed individually with no maximum number of permits

Background

- In 2021, the cannabis ordinance was amended to allow a 5th retail permit and other minor modifications
- Permit process for fifth permit started in January 2022
- Applications have been reviewed, ranked, and notice provided
- The 5th permit selected - Culture Merced at 1111 Motel Dr (2 appeals denied)



Ordinance Amendments

- Cannabis permits are generally new to the City being allowed for approximately 4 years.
- Amendments to the ordinance are expected with adjustment coming through feedback from the community, input from cannabis business professionals, and by comparing our process and outcomes with other communities.

Proposed ChangePs

- On Mach 20, 2023, the City Council directed staff to make 3 main changes to the current cannabis ordinance:
 - Increase the maximum number of retail cannabis dispensaries allowed within the City from 5 to up to 10 (final number to be determined by City Council)
 - Add a new section allowing Council consideration of alternative sites for retail cannabis business applications under appeal
 - Include local ownership requirements for cannabis retail permits issued after November 3, 2021



Planning Commission

- After the public hearing, the Planning Commission should make a Recommendation to the City Council to Approve/Disapprove/Modify:
 - Categorical Exemption (Environmental Review #23-12)
 - Zoning Ordinance Amendment #23-01 as described in Exhibit B of Planning Commission Resolution #4113.