ORDINANCE NO. 16-080041-1

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA, ADDING ARTICLE XIII TO CHAPTER 7 OF THE OCEANSIDE CITY CODE TO PROHIBIT COMMERCIAL CANNABIS ACTIVITIES INCLUDING CULTIVATION AND DELIVERY REQUIRING STATE LICENSES AS BUSINESSES WITHIN THE CITY OF OCEANSIDE

WHEREAS, the City of Oceanside, pursuant to its police power, may adopt regulations to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, Cal. Const. art. XI, § 7, Cal. Govt. Code § 37100, and thereby is authorized to declare what use or condition constitutes a public nuisance; and

WHEREAS, Section 38771 of the California Government Code authorizes the City through its legislative body to declare actions and activities that constitute a public nuisance; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Congress enacted the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. Section 801 et seq.) which, among other things, makes it illegal to import, manufacture, distribute, possess, or use marijuana for any purpose in the United States and further provides criminal penalties for marijuana possession, cultivation and distribution; and

WHEREAS, the People of the State of California have enacted Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act of 1996 (codified at Health and Safety Code Section 11362.5 et seq.) (the “CUA”), which exempts qualified patients and their primary caregivers from criminal prosecution under enumerated Health and Safety Code sections for use of marijuana for medical purposes; and

WHEREAS, the California Legislature enacted Senate Bill 420 in 2003, the Medical Marijuana Program Act (codified at Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7 et seq.) (the “MMPA”), as amended, which created a state-wide identification card scheme for qualified patients and primary caregivers; and

WHEREAS, on October 11, 2015, the Governor signed into law Senate Bill 643, Assembly Bill 266, and Assembly Bill 243, collectively referred to as the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act (“MMRSA”), effective January 1, 2016, which establishes a state licensing system for medical marijuana cultivation, manufacturing, delivery, and dispensing,
regulating these activities with licensing requirements and regulations that are only applicable if cities and counties also permit marijuana cultivation, manufacturing, dispensing, and delivery within their jurisdictions. Under the MMRSA, cities and counties may continue to ban medical marijuana cultivation, manufacturing, dispensing, and/or delivery, in which case the new law would not allow or permit these activities within the cities and counties; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the CUA, the MMPA, and the MMRSA, marijuana remains a schedule I substance pursuant to Cal. Health & Saf. Code § 11054 (d)(13); and

WHEREAS, marijuana also remains a schedule I substance pursuant to federal law, 21 U.S.C. § 812, Schedule I (c)(10), and federal law does not provide for any medical use defense or exception (Gonzales v. Raich, 545 U.S. 1 (2005); United States v. Oakland Cannabis Buyers’ Coop., 532 U.S. 483 (2001)); and

WHEREAS, in City of Riverside v. Inland Empire Patients Health and Wellness Center, Inc., 56 Cal. 4th 729 (2013), the California Supreme Court held that neither the CUA nor the MMPA preempt local regulation; and

WHEREAS, the MMRSA expressly allows cities and counties to ban marijuana cultivation consistent with current state law, including City of Riverside v. Inland Empire Patients Health and Wellness Center, Inc., 56 Cal. 4th 729 (2013);

WHEREAS, the MMRSA provides that if a city, county, or city and county does not have land use regulations or ordinances regulating or prohibiting the cultivation of marijuana, either expressly or otherwise under the principles of permissive zoning, or chooses not to administer a conditional permit program pursuant to the MMRSA, then commencing March 1, 2016, the state will be the sole licensing authority for medical marijuana cultivation applicants (Health & Safety Code section 11372.777(c)(4)); and

WHEREAS, the City intends by the adoption of this ordinance to prohibit marijuana cultivation and delivery activities as specified in Section 7.115 below within the City of Oceanside for the express and specific purpose of preserving the City’s authority to ban and/or adopt future regulations pertaining to marijuana cultivation and delivery as is required by California Health and Safety Code section 11372.777(c)(4), effective January 1, 2016, added by the MMRSA; and
WHEREAS, several California cities have reported negative impacts of marijuana cultivation, processing and distribution activities, including offensive odors, illegal sales and distribution of marijuana, trespassing, theft, violent robberies and robbery attempts, fire hazards and problems associated with mold, fungus and pests; and

WHEREAS, the Oceanside Police Department reports at least forty-six robberies related to the sale, purchase or possession of marijuana, twenty-four of which were committed using firearms, and twenty-two using other types of weapons. Twelve of these forty-six incidents were related to mobile marijuana dispensaries, including an incident on October 30, 2015 in which a mobile medicinal marijuana driver was shot twice and left paralyzed; and an incident on December 1, 2015 where two victims delivering medical marijuana were assaulted and robbed by three suspects; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Oceanside finds that the cultivation of marijuana and marijuana delivery activities within the City of Oceanside have the potential to negatively impact the City and constitute a public nuisance because:

a) Marijuana plants release pollen that can aggravate the respiratory system and impact the health of residents;

b) Persistent strong odors from mature and flowering marijuana plants produce a strong odor, offensive to many people, detectable beyond property boundaries alerting persons to the location of plants thus increasing the risk of burglary, robbery, armed robbery and other property crimes and acts of violence associated with the commission of such crimes;

c) Excessive use of electricity for indoor cultivation of marijuana can adversely affect the structural integrity of building(s) by increasing the risk of fire danger to the building(s) and imposing a health hazard to its occupants; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oceanside’s permissive Zoning Code does not list marijuana commercial cannabis activities as defined in Business and Professions Code section 19300.5(k), as permitted uses in any zoning district in the City and therefore, such uses are not allowed anywhere in the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that sanctioning the cultivation of commercial cannabis activities would be inconsistent with federal law; and
WHEREAS, the City of Oceanside, California, pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (hereinafter “CEQA”) (California Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.) and State CEQA guidelines (Sections 15000 et seq.) has determined that the Ordinance is exempt pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of Title 14 the California Code of Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that the provisions of this Ordinance are consistent with the City of Oceanside’s Zoning Ordinances and General Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that this Ordinance will not adversely affect property values and will not be detrimental to the City.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OCEANSIDE DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The City Council finds that all the facts, findings, and conclusions set forth above in this Ordinance are true and correct.

SECTION 2: Chapter 7, Article XIII. Commercial Cannabis Activities is hereby added to the Oceanside City Code to read as follows:

Sec. 7.115 - Purpose.

The City Council of the City of Oceanside hereby finds and determines that it is the purpose and intent of this article to prohibit any Commercial Cannabis Activity, including marijuana cultivation requiring a state license and/or commercial delivery of marijuana within the City of Oceanside, in order to promote the health, safety, and general welfare of residents and businesses within the City.

Sec. 7.116 - Applicability

A. Nothing in this article is intended, nor shall it be construed, to burden any defense to criminal prosecution under the CUA.

B. All the provisions of this article shall apply to all property, public and private, within the City.

C. All the provisions of this article shall apply indoors and outdoors.

Sec. 7.117 - Definitions

The following definitions apply to this chapter:
A. "Commercial Cannabis Activity" shall have the same definition as set forth in California Business and Professions Code section 19300.5(k) and includes cultivation, possession, manufacture, processing, storing, laboratory testing, labeling, transporting, distribution, or sale of medical cannabis or medical cannabis product except as set forth in Business and Professions Code section 19319.

B. "Marijuana" shall have the same definition as that set forth in California Health & Safety Code Section 11018.

C. "Medical marijuana" shall mean marijuana used for medical purposes in accordance with California Health and Safety Code section 11362.5.

D. "Marijuana cultivation" shall mean the indoor and outdoor planting, growing, harvesting drying or processing of marijuana plants or any part thereof for any purpose, and/or associated operational activities.

E. "Marijuana delivery" shall have the same meaning in Business and Professions Code section 19300.5(m) and includes the commercial delivery, transfer or transport, or the arranging for the commercial delivery, transfer or transport, or the use of any technology platform to arrange for or facilitate the commercial delivery, transfer or transport of marijuana, marijuana edibles, and/or any marijuana products to or from any location within the jurisdictional limits of the City of Oceanside, and any and all associated business and/or operational activities.

F. "Person" shall mean any person, firm, corporation, association, club, society, or other organization. The term person shall include any owner, manager, proprietor, employee, volunteer and/or salesperson.

Sec. 7.118 - Commercial Cannabis Activity Prohibited

Any Commercial Cannabis Activity, including Marijuana cultivation requiring a state license by a licensing authority as defined in Business and Professions Code section 19300.5(w), and Marijuana delivery is prohibited in the City of Oceanside. No permit shall be issued by the City to authorize any Commercial Cannabis Activity. Any Commercial Cannabis Activity that takes place is hereby declared a public nuisance.
Sec. 7.119. - Violations

Any violation of this article shall be remedied pursuant to Chapter 1 - General Provisions, Sections 1.7(g) and/or 1.14 through 1.14.8.

SECTION 3. The City Clerk of the City of Oceanside is hereby directed to publish this Ordinance, or the title hereof as a summary, pursuant to state statute, once within fifteen (15) days after its passage in a newspaper of general circulation published in the City of Oceanside.

SECTION 4. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and adopted this Ordinance and each section, sentence, clause or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall be effective 30 days after its adoption.

INTRODUCED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Oceanside, California, held on the 6th day of January, 2016, and, thereafter,

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Oceanside, California, held on the 20th day of January, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: FELLER, KERN, SANCHEZ

NAYS: LOWERY

ABSENT: WOOD

ABSTAIN: NONE

DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE CITY OF OCEANSIDE

ATTEST: APPROVED AS TO FORM:

CITY CLERK

CITY ATTORNEY