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Chapter 5.80 - MEDICAL CANNABIS DISPENSARY PERMITS ¹⁵¹

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5.80.010 - Definitions.

The following words or phrases, whenever used in this chapter, shall be given the following definitions:

- A. "Attorney General Guidelines" shall mean the California Attorney General Guidelines for the Security and Non-diversion of Marijuana Grown for Medical Use, issued by the Attorney General's Office in August 2008, as amended from time to time, which sets regulations intended to ensure the security and non-diversion of marijuana grown for medical use by qualified patients or primary caregivers.
- B. "Cannabis" or "Marijuana" shall have the same definition as Health and Safety Code § 11018, as amended from time to time, which defines "cannabis" as all parts of the plant *Cannabis sativa* L., whether growing or not; the seeds thereof; the resin extracted from any part of the plant; and every compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the plant, its seeds or resin. It does not include the mature stalks of the plant, fiber produced from the stalks, oil or cake made from the seeds of the plant, any other compound, manufacture, salt, derivative, mixture, or preparation of the mature stalks (except the resin extracted therefrom), fiber, oil, or cake, or the sterilized seeds of the plant are incapable of germination.
- C. "Cannabis dispensary" or "Dispensary" shall mean a collective or cooperative that distributes, dispenses, stores, exchanges, processes, delivers, makes available, transmits and/or gives away marijuana in the City for medicinal purposes to four or more qualified patients and/or primary caregivers pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Sections 11362.5, 11362.7 et seq.
- D. "City Administrator" means the City Administrator of the City of Oakland or his/her designee.
- E.

"Collective" means any association, affiliation, or establishment jointly owned and operated by its members that facilitates the collaborative efforts of qualified patients and primary caregivers, as described in the Attorney General Guidelines.

- F. "Medical marijuana" means marijuana authorized in strict compliance with Health & Safety Code §§ 11362.5, 11362.7 et seq., as such sections may be amended from time to time.
- G. "Parcel of land" means one piece of real property as identified by the county assessor's parcel number (APN) that is one contiguous parcel of real property, which is used to identify real property, its boundaries, and all the rights contained therein.
- H. "Primary caregiver" shall have the same definition as California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7, and as may be amended, and which defines "Primary Caregiver" as an individual designated by a qualified patient or by a person with an identification card who has consistently assumed responsibility for the housing, health, or safety of that patient or person, and may include any of the following:
1. In any case in which a qualified patient or person with an identification card receives medical care or supportive services, or both, from a clinic licensed pursuant to Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 1200) of Division 2 of the California Health and Safety Code; a health care facility licensed pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 1250) of Division 2 of the California Health and Safety Code; a residential care facility for persons with chronic life-threatening illness licensed pursuant to Chapter 3.01 (commencing with Section 1568.01) of Division 2 of the California Health and Safety Code; a residential care facility for the elderly licensed pursuant to Chapter 3.2 (commencing with Section 1569) of Division 2 of the California Health and Safety Code; a hospice, or a home health agency licensed pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 1725) of Division 2 of the California Health and Safety Code; the owner or operator, or no more than three employees who are designated by the owner or operator, of the clinic, facility, hospice, or home health agency, if designated as a primary caregiver by that qualified patient or person with an identification card.
 2. An individual who has been designated as a primary caregiver by more than one qualified patient or person with an identification card, if every qualified patient or person with an identification card who has designated that individual as a primary caregiver resides in the same city or county as the primary caregiver.
 3. An individual who has been designated as a primary caregiver by a qualified patient or person with an identification card who resides in a city or county other than that of the primary caregiver, if the individual has not been designated as a primary caregiver by any other qualified patient or person with an identification card.
- I. "Qualified patient" shall have the same definition as California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7 et seq., and as may be amended, and which means a person who is entitled to the protections of California Health & Safety Code Section 11362.5. For purposes of this ordinance, qualified patient shall include a

person with an identification card, as that term is defined by California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7 et seq.

- J. "Serious medical condition" shall have the same definition as California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7 et seq., and as may be amended, and which means all of the following medical conditions:
1. Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS);
 2. Anorexia;
 3. Arthritis;
 4. Cachexia;
 5. Cancer;
 6. Chronic pain;
 7. Glaucoma;
 8. Migraine;
 9. Persistent muscle spasms, including, but not limited to, spasms associated with multiple sclerosis;
 10. Seizures, including, but not limited to, seizures associated with epilepsy;
 11. Severe nausea;
 12. Any other chronic or persistent medical symptom that either:
 - a. Substantially limits the ability of the person to conduct one or more major life activities as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336).
 - b. If not alleviated, may cause serious harm to the patient's safety or physical or mental health.
- K. "Written documentation" shall have the same definition as California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7 et seq., and as may be amended, and which defines "written documentation" as accurate reproductions of those portions of a patient's medical records that have been created by the attending physician, that contain the information required by paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.715, and that the patient may submit to a county health department or the county's designee as part of an application for an identification card.

(Ord. No. 13086, § 1, 7-26-2011)

5.80.020 - Business permit required and application for permit.

- A. Except for hospitals, research facilities, or an entity authorized pursuant to Section [8.46.030](#), it is unlawful for any owner, operator, or association to own, conduct, operate or maintain, or to participate therein, or to cause or to allow to be conducted, operated, or maintained, any dispensary in the City unless there exists a valid business permit in compliance with the provisions of [Chapter 5.02](#) and a permit issued under this chapter.
- B. This Chapter, and the requirement to obtain a business permit, does not apply to the individual possession or cultivation of medical marijuana for personal use, nor does this chapter apply to the usage, distribution, cultivation or processing of medical marijuana by qualified patients or primary caregivers when such group is of three or less individuals, and distributing, cultivating or processing the marijuana from a residential unit or a single non-residential parcel of land. Associations of three or less qualified

- patients or primary caregivers shall not be required to obtain a permit under Chapter 5.80, but must comply with applicable State law and the Attorney General Guidelines.
- C. The City Administrator shall issue no more than eight valid permits for the operation of dispensaries in the City.
- D. In addition to the requirements specified in Section [5.02.020](#) for business permits, the permit application for a dispensary shall set forth the following information:
1. Unless the City Administrator in his/her discretion determines that the location will not impact the peace, order and welfare of the public, evidence that the proposed location of such dispensary is not within 600 feet of a public or private school, public library, youth center (serving youth age 18 and under), parks and recreation facilities, residential zone or another dispensary. The proposed dispensary must be located in a commercial or industrial zone, or its equivalent as may be amended, of the City.
 2. A complete description of the type, nature and extent of the enterprise to be conducted, with evidence satisfactory to the City Administrator that the enterprise is either a collective or cooperative, as described in the Attorney General Guidelines.
 3. A plan of operations that will describe how the dispensary will operate consistent with the intent of State law, the provisions of this Chapter and the Attorney General Guidelines, including but not limited to:
 - a. Controls to verify membership in collectives and cooperatives to ensure medical marijuana will be dispensed only to qualified patients and primary caregivers, and
 - b. Controls to acquire, possess, transport and distribute marijuana to and from members, and plans to ensure marijuana is acquired as part of a closed-circuit of marijuana cultivation and consumption.
 4. A security plan, as a separate document, outlining the proposed security arrangements for ensuring the safety of persons and to protect the premises from theft. The security plan shall be reviewed by the Police Department and the Office of the City Administrator and shall be exempt from disclosure as a public record pursuant to Government Code Section 6255(a).
 5. Such other information deemed necessary to conduct any investigation or background check of the applicant, and for the City Administrator to determine compliance with this Chapter, the City's Municipal Code and Zoning Code.
- E. Public notice of the hearing on the application shall be given as provided in Section [5.02.050](#). The City Administrator shall be the investigating official referred to in Section [5.02.030](#) to whom the application shall be referred. In recommending the granting or denying of such permit and in granting or denying the same, the City Administrator shall give particular consideration to the capacity, capitalization, and complaint history of the applicant and any other factors that in the City Administrator's discretion he/she deems necessary to the peace, order and welfare of the public. All applicants shall pay an application fee, a permit fee, and all inspection fees that may be required as part of the application process.
- F. At the time of submission of dispensary permit application, the applicant shall pay a dispensary permit application fee. The fee amount shall be set by City Council resolution.

(Ord. No. 13086, § 1, 7-26-2011)

5.80.030 - Regulations.

The City Administrator shall establish administrative regulations for the permitting of dispensaries and may set further standards for operation of dispensaries. The dispensary shall meet all the operating criteria for the dispensing of medical marijuana required pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 11362.7 et seq., the City Administrator's administrative regulations, and this Chapter.

(Ord. No. 13086, § 1, 7-26-2011)

5.80.040 - Performance standards.

The City Administrator shall develop and implement performance standards consistent with those set forth in Ordinance No. 12585 in the Office of the City Administrator Guidelines and shall modify such Guidelines from time to time as required by applicable law and consistent with public health, welfare and safety.

The following performance standards shall be included in the City Administrative regulations:

- A. No cannabis shall be smoked, ingested or otherwise consumed on the premises of the dispensary.
- B. The dispensary shall not hold or maintain a license from the State Department of Alcohol Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages, or operate a business that sells alcoholic beverages.

(Ord. No. 13086, § 1, 7-26-2011)

5.80.050 - Regulatory fees; seller's permit.

- A. In addition to the dispensary application fee, the dispensary shall pay an annual regulatory fee at the same as applying for the business tax certificate or renewal thereof. The dispensary shall post a copy of the business tax certificate issued pursuant to [Chapter 5.04](#), together with a copy of the dispensary permit issued pursuant to this chapter and Section [5.02.020](#), in a conspicuous place in the premises approved as a dispensary at all times.
- B. The State Board of Equalization has determined that medical marijuana transactions are subject to sales tax, regardless of whether the individual or group makes a profit, and those engaging in transactions involving medical marijuana must obtain a seller's permit from the State Board of Equalization.
- C. The fees referenced herein shall be set by Council resolution, as modified from time to time.

(Ord. No. 13086, § 1, 7-26-2011)

5.80.060 - Profit.

The dispensary shall not profit from the sale or distribution of marijuana. Any monetary reimbursement that members provide to the dispensary should only be an amount necessary to cover overhead costs and operating expenses.

Retail sales of medical marijuana that violate California law or this chapter are expressly prohibited.

(Ord. No. 13086, § 1, 7-26-2011)

5.80.070 - Revocation, suspension and appeals.

Notwithstanding Chapter [5.02](#), any decision by the City Administrator, except for the suspensions or revocations of permits, shall be final and conclusive, and there shall be no right of appeal to the City Council or any other appellate body.

For suspensions or revocations the City shall follow the procedures set forth in Section [5.02.080](#), except an independent hearing officer shall make the initial determination as to whether to suspend or revoke the permit. The appeal authorized in Section [5.02.100](#) shall be to the City Administrator, and such request for appeal must be made in writing within 14 days of the hearing officer's decision. The decision of the City Administrator shall be final and conclusive.

(Ord. No. 13086, § 1, 7-26-2011)

5.80.080 - Prohibited operations; nonconforming uses.

- A. All dispensaries in violation of California Health and Safety Code Section 11326.7 et seq. and 11362.5 and this chapter are expressly prohibited. It is unlawful for any dispensary in the City, or any agent, employee or representative of such dispensary, to permit any breach of peace therein or any disturbance of public order or decorum by any tumultuous, riotous or disorderly conduct on the premises of the dispensary.
- B. Except for uses established pursuant to [Chapter 8.46](#), no use which purports to have distributed marijuana prior to the enactment of this chapter shall be deemed to have been a legally established use under the provisions of the Oakland Planning Code, this Code, or any other local ordinance, rule or regulation, and such use shall not be entitled to claim legal nonconforming status.

(Ord. No. 13086, § 1, 7-26-2011)

5.80.090 - Liability.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, any actions taken by a public officer or employee under the provisions of this chapter shall not become a personal liability of any public officer or employee of the City.

(Ord. No. 13086, § 1, 7-26-2011)

5.80.100 - Examination of books, records, witnesses—Penalty.

- A. The City Administrator shall be provided access to any and all financial information regarding the dispensary at any time, as needed to conduct an audit of the permittees under this chapter to verify tax compliance under [Chapter 5.80](#) and/or gross receipts tax requirements.
- B. The City Administrator is authorized to examine the books, papers, tax returns and records of any permittee for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of any declaration made, or if no declaration was made, to ascertain the business tax due.
- C. The City Administrator is authorized to examine a person under oath, for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of any declaration made, or if no declaration was made, to ascertain the business tax, registration or permit fees due under this chapter. In order to

ascertain the business tax, registration or permit fees due under this chapter, the City Administrator may compel, by administrative subpoena, the production of relevant books, papers and records and the attendance of all persons as parties or witnesses.

- D. Every permittee is directed and required to furnish to the City Administrator, the means, facilities and opportunity for making such financial examinations and investigations.
- E. Any permittee refusal to comply with this section shall be deemed a violation of this chapter, and administrative subpoenas shall be enforced pursuant to applicable law.

(Ord. No. 13086, § 1, 7-26-2011)

FOOTNOTE(S):

⁽⁵⁾ **Editor's note**— Ord. No. 13086, § 1, adopted July 26, 2011, amended chapter 5.80 in its entirety to read as herein set out. Formerly, chapter 5.80 pertained to similar subject matter and derived from Ord. No. 13049, § 3, adopted December 7, 2010. ([Back](#))