

**CITY OF FITCHBURG
NOTICE OF CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING**

To be held on April 3, 2018 at 7:00PM

Memorial Middle School Library, 615 Rollstone St. Fitchburg MA 01420

Proposed change to the City of Fitchburg Zoning Ordinance Chapter 181

Ordinance #31-2018 as follows:

Amending Chapter 181 (Zoning) by adding Section 181.65, Marijuana Establishments with several subsections; amending definitions in section 181.10; adding to section 181.5364 regulating signs; amending requirements for site plan review in section 181.9414; amending prohibited home occupations in section 181.333

The proposed changes to Chapter 181 (Zoning) of the Code of the City of Fitchburg exceed eight octavo pages of ordinary book print, therefore, as directed in the City of Fitchburg Charter Division 2, Section 23, the full text of the ordinance is now published in a printed pamphlet and is available for viewing at the City Clerk's office, 166 Boulder Drive, Fitchburg MA. The City Clerk's office is open from 8:30AM until 4:30PM Monday through Friday. The pamphlet is also available for viewing on the City of Fitchburg website on the City Council web page at

<http://www.fitchburgma.gov/385/City-Council>

In City Council February 20, 2018

By unanimous vote, the proposed Ordinance was referred to the Planning Board for a public hearing to be held on March 13, 2018 and to a City Council public hearing to be held on April 3, 2018. 10 members present. Board consists of 11 members.

Anna M. Farrell, City Clerk

CITY OF FITCHBURG

IN THE YEAR

FITCHBURG CITY CLERK

2018

2018 FEB 15 AM 9:32

AN ORDINANCE

31-2018

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Fitchburg, as follows:

~~CITY OF FITCHBURG ZONING ORDINANCE MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS FOR RETAIL NON-MEDICAL MARIJUANA AS FOLLOWS~~

Section 181.65 - MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS

181.651 Regulation. G.L. c. 94G authorizes a system of state licensing for businesses engaging in the cultivation, testing, processing and manufacturing, and retail sales of non-medical marijuana, collectively referred to as Marijuana Establishments (MEs). G.L. c. 94G §3 allows cities to adopt ordinances that impose reasonable safeguards on the operation of non-medical marijuana establishments, provided they are not unreasonably impracticable and are not in conflict with the law. The special permit and site plan review requirements set forth in this Section shall be in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other licensing and permitting requirements imposed by any other federal, state, or local law.

181.652 Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to allow state-licensed MEs to exist in the City of Fitchburg in accordance with applicable state laws and regulations and impose reasonable safeguards to govern the time, place and manner of ME operations and any business dealing in Marijuana Accessories in such a way as to ensure public health, safety, well-being, and reduce undue impacts on the natural environment as it relates to cultivation, processing and manufacturing subject to the provisions of this Zoning Ordinance, M.G.L. c. 40A, M.G.L. c. 94G and any other applicable law. Therefore, this ordinance may permit MEs in locations suitable for lawful MEs where there is access to regional roadways, where they may be readily monitored by law enforcement for health and public safety purposes, and to minimize adverse impacts on adjacent properties, residential neighborhoods, historic districts, schools, playgrounds and other locations where minors congregate by regulating the siting, design, placement, operation security, and removal of MEs.

This Section is intended to coexist with the existing Section 181.64 regarding MMDs and MMMs.

181.653 Definitions. Where not expressly defined in the Zoning Ordinance, terms used in this Zoning Ordinance referring to non-medical use marijuana shall be interpreted as defined in G.L. c. 94G, as the same may be amended from time to time, and regulations issued by the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC). The following definitions, consistent with this expressed intent, shall apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this section:

1. "Marijuana Products", products that have been manufactured and contain marijuana or an extract from marijuana, including concentrated forms of marijuana and products composed of marijuana and other ingredients that are intended for non-medical use or consumption, including edible products, beverages, topical products, ointments, oils and tinctures.
2. "Marijuana Establishment" (ME), a Marijuana Cultivator, Independent testing laboratory, Marijuana Product Manufacturer, Marijuana Retailer or any other type of licensed non-medical marijuana-related business.

3. "Marijuana Cultivator" (MC), an entity licensed to cultivate, process and package non-medical marijuana, to deliver non-medical marijuana to ME's and to transfer marijuana to other ME's, but not to consumers. A Craft Marijuana Cultivator Cooperative performing a similar function shall be included within the definition of a MC.
4. "Marijuana Product Manufacturer" (MPM), an entity licensed to obtain, manufacture, process and package non-medical marijuana and marijuana products, to deliver non-medical marijuana and marijuana products to ME's and to transfer non-medical marijuana and marijuana products to other ME's, but not to consumers. A Craft Marijuana Cultivator Cooperative performing a similar function shall be included within the definition of a MPM.
5. "Marijuana Retailer" (MR), an entity licensed to purchase and deliver non-medical marijuana and marijuana products from ME's and to deliver, sell or otherwise transfer non-medical marijuana and marijuana products to ME's and to consumers.
6. "Independent testing laboratory", a laboratory that is licensed by the CCC and is:
 - (i) accredited to the most current International Organization for Standardization 17025 by a third-party accrediting body that is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation mutual recognition arrangement or that is otherwise approved by the CCC; (ii) independent financially from any medical marijuana treatment center or any licensee or ME for which it conducts a test; and (iii) qualified to test marijuana in compliance with regulations promulgated by the CCC pursuant to G.L. c. 94G.
7. "Experienced Operator," any MMD or MMM facilities, as defined by Section 181.64 of the Zoning Ordinance, having already received a special permit and site plan review approval by the City, prior to the passage of Section 181.65 of this Ordinance, which remain in good standing without violation of any ordinance, statute, or condition of their special permit.
8. "Moral Character" means the degree to which a person's history demonstrates honesty, fairness and respect for the rights of others and for conformance to the law, which may include consideration of whether an individual has:
 - a. Ever had a professional license denied, suspended or revoked;
 - b. Ever had a business license denied, suspended or revoked;
 - c. Ever had a marijuana-related business license denied, suspended, revoked, or placed on administrative hold, or was subjected to a fine for violation of a marijuana-related zoning ordinance;
 - d. Ever had a business temporarily or permanently closed for failure to comply with any tax, health, building, fire, zoning or safety law;
 - e. Ever had an administrative, civil or criminal finding of delinquency for failure to file or failure to pay employment, sales, property or use taxes;
 - f. Ever been convicted of a felony, sex offense, or other offense involving violence, distribution of controlled substances, excluding marijuana-related possession offenses, or other moral turpitude;
 - g. Within the previous sixty months been convicted of a misdemeanor or other offense involving the distribution of controlled substances, or driving under the influence of alcohol or other substance (DUI, OUI) convictions

181.654 Prohibitions and Limitations.

181.6541 It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a ME without obtaining a special permit and undergoing site plan approval pursuant to the requirements of this Ordinance, except as provided for an Experienced Operator.

181.6542 An Experienced Operator may operate a ME of the same type as the medical marijuana facility for which they have been granted a special permit and approved site plan review by the City without obtaining a new special permit, provided that the Experienced Operator must receive site plan approval for the new use as a ME, that the ME is located in the same facility for which the Experienced Operator received the prior special permit and site plan approval, and that the gross square footage of such facility is not increased by more than ten (10%) percent.

181.6543 A separate special permit is required for each different ME detailed in section 181.653, above, or in the case of an Experienced Operator, a separate site plan review.

181.6544 As defined in G.L. c. 94G, and as established in Section _____ of the Fitchburg City Code, the number of MRs shall be limited to no more than 20% of the number of licenses issued within the city for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages not to be drunk on the premises where sold under G.L. c. 138, §15. No special permit may be granted for a MR which results in a violation of this limit.

181.6545 A ME may only be involved in the use permitted by its definition. MRs may only be located in buildings containing other retail, commercial, residential, industrial, or any other uses, including other types of MEs, if the MR is separated by full walls from any and all other uses.

181.6546 MRs may be permitted under special permit by the Planning Board in the MMOD District. Independent Testing Facilities may be permitted under special permit by the Planning Board in the Industrial (I), Light Industrial (LI), Central Business (CBD) and Commercial & Automotive (C&A) Zoning Districts. On-site or social consumption, so called, is prohibited as a use. All other MEs may be permitted under special permit by the Planning Board in the Industrial and Light Industrial Zoning Districts.

181.6547 MEs shall be prohibited as an Accessory Use or Home Occupation in all zoning districts. No ME shall be permitted to have drive-up or walk-up facilities as described in Section 181.3246 of this Zoning Ordinance.

181.6548 No marijuana or Marijuana Product shall be smoked, eaten, ingested, consumed or otherwise used within the premises of any ME.

181.6549 No ME may be operated in a mobile facility or outside of a fully enclosed building or structure, excepting deliveries to off-site MRs and home deliveries to consumers permitted or licensed by applicable state and local regulations.

181.65410 No ME may be operated in such a manner as to cause or create a public nuisance to abutters or to the surrounding area, or which creates any hazard, including but not limited to, fire, explosion, fumes, gas, smoke, odors, obnoxious dust, vapors, offensive noise or vibration, flashes, glare, objectionable effluent or electrical interference, which may impair the normal use and peaceful enjoyment of any property, structure or dwelling in the area.

181.65411 The issuance of a special permit and site plan review pursuant to this chapter does not create an exception, defense, or immunity to any person or entity in regard to any potential criminal liability the person or entity may have for the production, distribution, or possession of marijuana.

181.655 Application. In addition to the materials required under Section 181.93 (Special Permits) and Section 181.94 (Site Plan Review) of this Ordinance, the applicant shall submit the following:

1. All materials required under Section 181.645 of this Zoning Ordinance for an MMD or MMM facility, with the exceptions that any reference within Section 181.645 to the Department of Public Health or regulations issued thereby shall be interpreted to refer to the CCC and its regulations, or any other state regulation or statute applicable to the ME.
2. Proof of approval from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for the proposed ME by submitting copies of all required registrations, licenses and permits issued to the applicant by the state and any of its agencies for the proposed ME.
3. The name, address, email address, and phone number of all designated Managers of the ME, together with a criminal background check of such Managers and other evidence of Moral Character.
4. Proof that the detailed security plan, operation and management plan, and emergency response plans have been submitted to the Fitchburg Police Department and the Department of Planning and Community Development for comment and review at the same time or prior to the submission of the application, and any comment or response received by the applicant.
5. Proof that the applicant provided notification in writing at the same time or prior to the submission of the application to all property owners and operators of the uses listed under 181.656(5) within three hundred (300) feet of its proposed location and use, to provide them with the opportunity to comment to the Planning Board, as well as any and all comment or response received by the applicant.
6. Evidence demonstrating that the ME will be operated in a responsible manner that does not materially adversely affect the public health, safety or the general welfare of the City or the immediate neighborhood where the ME is located. This may include but shall not be limited to evidence of Moral Character.

181.6551 Upon receipt of a completed application, the Planning Board shall refer copies of the application to the Building Department, Fire Department, Police Department, City Council, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, and the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works. These boards/departments shall review the application and shall submit their written recommendations. Failure to make recommendations within 60 days of referral of the application shall be deemed lack of opposition.

181.6552 After notice and public hearing and consideration of application materials, consultant reviews, public comments, and the recommendations of other municipal boards and departments, the Planning Board may act upon the application for special permit and approval of site plan.

181.6553 In instances where any portion of a project involves a special permit application to or site plan review by the Planning Board for any ME, the Planning Board shall

serve as the special permit granting authority for all other special permits required in connection with such project.

181.656 Special Permit Criteria and Findings

A MR, MC, MPM or Independent Testing Facility may be permitted pursuant to a Special Permit and Site Plan Review granted by the Planning Board. In granting a special permit for a MR, MC, MPM or Independent Testing Facility, in addition to the general criteria for a special permit in Section 181.93 of the Zoning Ordinance, the Planning Board must also make the following findings:

1. If the special permit is for a MR, that the MR is located in the MMDO; or if the special permit is for an Independent Testing Facility, that the Independent Testing Facility is located in the Industrial (I), Light Industrial (LI), Central Business (CBD) and Commercial & Automotive (C&A) Zoning District; or if the special permit is for any other ME, that the ME is located in the Industrial or Light Industrial zoning districts in accordance with 181.313 of the Table of Principle Uses.
2. The applicant has demonstrated that the ME has or will meet all of the permitting requirements of all applicable agencies within the Commonwealth and is or will be in compliance with all applicable state laws and regulations, including, but not limited to G.L. c. 94G, §12 General Marijuana Establishment Operation.
3. The applicant has entered into an approved Host Community Agreement under which the applicant pays a host fee or Impact Fee to the City with the Mayor of the City of Fitchburg.
4. The grant of the special permit will not exceed the limitation on permitted MRs set forth in Section 181.6544.
5. The ME is located at least three hundred (300) feet distant of a pre-existing public or private school providing education in kindergarten or any of grades 1 through 12, a vocational school, a public or private college, junior college, university or dormitory, a licensed child care facility, a library, a playground, a public park, a youth center, a public swimming pool, a video arcade facility, any facility in which minors commonly congregate, or any residence, including commercial residences such as hotels, motels, lodging houses, etc. The distance under this section is measured in a straight line from the nearest point of the property line of the protected uses to the nearest point of the structure of the proposed ME.
 - a. The distance requirement may be reduced by the Planning Board provided that the ME will employ adequate measures to prevent product diversion to minors, and the Planning Board determines that a shorter distance, adequately buffered, will suffice to accomplish the objectives set forth under 181.65
6. The applicant has satisfied all of the conditions and requirements of this section and other applicable sections of the Zoning Ordinance and any applicable city ordinances.
7. The facility provides adequate security measures to ensure that there are not direct threats to the health or safety of employees, staff, or members of the public and that storage and location of cultivation is adequately secured.
8. The facility meets all criteria required for a Special Permit for an MMD or MMM under Section 181.645 of this Zoning Ordinance, with the exceptions that

- a. Any reference within Section 181.645 to the Department of Public Health or regulations issued thereby shall be interpreted to refer to the CCC and its regulations, or any other state regulation or statute applicable to the ME; and
 - b. Location in an area which does not have reasonable access to medical marijuana pursuant to Section 181.644(a) shall not be required.
9. The applicant has demonstrated, by substantial evidence of Moral Character and other evidence, that it will operate the ME in conformity with all applicable municipal ordinances, state laws and regulations and that its policies and procedures are designed to prevent violation of such laws, particularly including but not limited to Section 181.654 above.

181.657 Site Plan Review/Special Permit Conditions

The Planning Board shall conduct site plan review and shall impose conditions reasonably appropriate to improve site design, traffic flow, public safety, protect water quality, air quality, and significant environmental resources, preserve the character of the surrounding area and otherwise serve the purpose of this section. In addition to any specific conditions applicable to the applicant's ME, the following conditions shall be included in any site plan review or special permit granted under this Ordinance:

1. All conditions applicable to MMDs and MMMs under Section 181.646 of this Zoning Ordinance shall be applied to an ME, with the exceptions that
 - a. Any reference within Section 181.646 to the Department of Public Health or regulations issued thereby shall be interpreted to refer to the CCC and its regulations, or any other state regulation or statute applicable to the ME;
 - b. Hours of operation shall be set forth within the special permit, and shall generally be consistent with those for package stores licensed under G.L. c. 138.
 - c. The provisions regarding signage contained in Section 181.646(f) and (g) shall not be included; and
 - d. The provisions revoking a special permit for cultivation or dispensing of marijuana for non-medical purposes in Section 181.646(p) shall not be applicable.
2. All business signage shall be subject to the requirements to be promulgated by the CCC and the requirements of Section 181.53 of this Zoning Ordinance.
3. The ME shall not violate any provision of the Zoning Ordinance, including but not limited to Section 181.654 above.
4. Display of marijuana, Marijuana Products and Marijuana Accessories shall be limited to an area which is accessible only by persons aged twenty-one (21) years or older, and the applicant shall establish such controls and monitoring as are necessary to ensure that this area is not accessed by persons under the age of twenty-one (21) years.
5. The ME shall regularly verify to the City its efforts to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the public, and to limit undue impacts on the natural environment, by the use of high efficiency equipment to limit energy and water usage demand, by the purchase of renewable energy credits, by the use of LED lighting equipment, by the prohibition or limitation of pesticides, insecticides and similar chemicals, and by any other methods designed to further this purpose.
6. ME shall be operated in a responsible manner that does not materially adversely affect the public health, safety or the general welfare of the City or the immediate neighborhood where the ME is located.

7. The applicant has entered into an approved Host Community Agreement under which the applicant pays a host fee or Impact Fee to the City with the Mayor of the City of Fitchburg.

181.658 Termination and Modification

181.6581 A special permit or site plan approval may be terminated due to violation of any of its conditions. In addition, a special permit or site plan approval shall terminate upon:

1. Failure of the permit holder to commence operations at the ME within twelve (12) months of the date of approval; or
2. Transfer of ownership of the ME without approval of the Planning Board. For these purposes, transfer of ownership shall include any reallocation of ownership or change in business structure which results in a change of its designated representatives or responsible individuals; or
3. Termination of the Host Community Agreement or failure to pay a host fee or Impact Fee under the Agreement to the City.

181.6582 A special permit or site plan approval may be modified by the Planning Board after public hearing. No modification is permitted for a change of location; a special permit holder must submit a new application for a change in location. Any changes in the application materials from the original materials must be submitted with a request for modification. No transfer of ownership, except a transfer to an affiliated entity, shall be permitted for two years after the date of approval of the special permit or site plan review unless required due to the death or disability of an owner. If the special permit holder requests approval of a transfer of ownership, then the holder must submit proof:

1. That the new owner will operate the ME in accordance with the terms of the special permit, as shown by evidence of Moral Character and other substantial evidence; and
2. That all amounts due under the Host Community Agreement have been timely paid and no taxes, fines, penalties, fees, or other charges due to the City are currently unpaid.

181.659 Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any provision, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person, establishment, or circumstances shall be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions or application of this Ordinance.

(2) TO AMEND THE DEFINITIONS OF RMD, MMD AND MMM IN SECTION 181.10 TO REMOVE A REQUIREMENT THAT THE OPERATOR BE A NON-PROFIT ENTITY, AS FOLLOWS:

181.10 REGISTERED MARIJUANA DISPENSARY (RMD) – Also known as a Medical Marijuana Treatment Center, is an establishment approved and licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) pursuant to 105 CMR 725.000, owned and operated by an **entity** registered under 105 CMR 725.100, that acquires, cultivates, possesses, processes (including development of related products such as marijuana-infused products (“MIPs”), tinctures, aerosols, oils, or ointments), transfers, transports, sells, distributes, dispenses, or administers marijuana, products containing marijuana, related supplies, or educational materials to registered qualifying patients or their personal caregivers. A RMD shall not be eligible as a “non-exempt agricultural use” or as a “non-exempt educational use” and shall only be permitted as allowed in accordance with City of Fitchburg Zoning Ordinance. Further, the following definitions shall apply for the purposes of distinguishing the permitting and regulation of RMD dispensing uses from RMD cultivation uses within this Ordinance:

a) **Medical Marijuana Dispensary (MMD) facility** – A Registered Marijuana Dispensary that is located off-site from the cultivation/processing facility (and controlled and operated by the same registered and approved **entity** which operates an affiliated RMD) but which serves only to dispense the processed marijuana, related supplies and educational materials to registered Qualifying Patients or their personal caregivers in accordance with the provisions of MDPH regulations 105 CMR 725.000.

b) **Medical Marijuana Manufacturing (MMM) facility** – A Registered Marijuana Dispensary that is located off-site from the dispensing facility (and controlled and operated by the same registered and approved **entity** which operates an affiliated RMD) but which serves only to cultivate and process marijuana, and marijuana infused products in accordance with the provisions of MDPH regulations 105 CMR 725.000.

(3) TO ADD THE FOLLOWING SECTION REGULATING SIGNS:

Add 181.5364

181.5364 Signs for Marijuana Establishments

All signs for Marijuana Establishments shall be in conformity with the provisions of G.L. c. 94G and all applicable federal, state and local regulations, including regulations issued by the Cannabis Control Commission. Temporary and promotional signage for Marijuana Establishments are prohibited.

(4) TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SITE PLAN REVIEW BY AMENDING SECTION 181.9414 AS FOLLOWS:

181.9414. Siting, construction or expansion of a Registered Marijuana Dispensary (RMD) or Marijuana Establishment (ME).

TO AMEND THE TABLE OF PRINCIPAL USES BY ADDING SECTIONS 181.313D(15), (16) AND (17) and 181.313D(28) AS FOLLOWS:

- D15. All Marijuana Establishments (ME), except for Marijuana Retailers (MR). Update chart with SP FOR LI, and I zones by Planning Board (N for all other zoning districts).
- D16. Marijuana Retailers (MR). Update chart with SP FOR MMOD (N for all other zoning districts).
- D17. Independent Testing Laboratory. Update chart with SP in the I, LI, CBD and C&A zoning districts (N for all other districts).
- C28. Marijuana Social Consumption Establishment, N for all zoning districts.

(5) TO AMEND THE PROHIBITED HOME OCCUPATIONS BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING TO SECTION 181.333:

181.333 Prohibited Home Occupations:

- Marijuana Establishment (ME) or similar facility
- Registered Marijuana Dispensary (RMD) or similar facility