

Roll Call

A special work session of the Kalamazoo City Commission was held on Monday, October 7, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall. The purpose of the meeting was for the City Commission to receive a presentation from the Michigan Marihuana Regulatory Agency regarding the Social Equity Program for adult use marihuana license applicants.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

David Anderson
Don Cooney
Eric Cunningham
Patrese Griffin
Jack Urban

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Mayor Bobby J. Hopewell*
Vice Mayor Erin Knott

Also present were City Manager Jim Ritsema, City Attorney Clyde Robinson, and City Clerk Scott Borling.

Commissioners
Excused

Commissioner Cunningham, seconded by Commissioner Urban, moved to excuse the absences of Mayor Hopewell and Vice Mayor Knott. With a voice vote the motion passed.

Communications

An opportunity was given for general communications, but none were offered.

2019-0316
Presentation and
Discussion re: the
State's Social Equity
Program for Adult Use
Marihuana License
Applicants

City Attorney Robinson distributed and reviewed a memo entitled *Michigan Communities Disproportionately Impacted by Marijuana*. City Attorney Robinson introduced members of the Social Equity Team at the Michigan Marijuana Regulatory Agency (MRA).

Mishella Marshall, Social Equity Program Manager, introduced Social Equity Representatives Jacob Nevin and Anastasia Franco. Mr. Nevin and Ms. Franco delivered a presentation entitled *Social Equity: Kalamazoo*. A copy of the slides from the presentation were filed with the papers for this meeting.

In response to questions from Commissioner Anderson, Ms. Franco confirmed that a person could be a resident in any "impacted community" and be eligible for the Social Equity Program as long as they opened a business in an impacted community, whether they resided in that community or not.

Mr. Nevin stated the Emergency Rules could last for six months and be renewed for another six months, but he was not sure whether there would be any changes or whether the Attorney General was involved in the development of the rules. Mr. Nevin indicated local jurisdictions could create additional social equity criteria.

City Attorney Robinson clarified that a local licensing process was needed in order to add local social equity requirements, and he noted the criteria needed to be constitutional.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cunningham Ms. Franco stated she could not address whether the MRA would be adequately funded or staffed in 2020 for the Social Equity Program.

In response to questions from Commissioner Griffin, Mr. Nevin stated Kalamazoo residents would have opportunities to open marihuana facilities both in the City of Kalamazoo and in other impacted communities.

Ms. Franco noted the state was offering resources and services to help people and give them tools to get their businesses off the ground.

Ms. Marshall pointed out there was no cap on the number of adult use facility licenses the state could issue.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cunningham, Mr. Nevin stated the MRA was required to process adult use facility applications within 90 days.

In response to questions from Commissioner Anderson, Mr. Nevin explained there were some adult use licenses that could be issued only to Medical Marihuana Facility (MMF) license holders for the first two years, but some licenses did not have this requirement. Ms. Franco stated a person with a MMF license would be able to apply for fee reductions under the Social Equity Program. Mr. Nevin indicated the resources associated with the Social Equity Program community presentations were free, and the Social Equity Program team was working to develop an on-line resource library. Mr. Nevin stated November was the launch date for third-party resources.

City Attorney Robinson explained the residency requirements again and noted the 2-year limitation for MMF licensees was in the statute and was not a policy decision by the MRA. City Attorney Robinson stated it was not clear how the event licenses would work.

In response to a question from Commissioner Cunningham, Ms. Franco stated the MRA used data when identifying “impacted communities,” but she could not say how many people in Kalamazoo might be eligible for the Social Equity Program.

Next, when an opportunity was given for general citizen comments, the following people addressed the City Commission:

Daphne Ben, Kalamazoo Township resident, asked whether Township residents would qualify for the Social Equity Program and questioned what would happen if an applicant paid the license fee but did not get a license.

Chris Wahmhoff, City resident, asked whether there were good examples of local ordinances.

City Attorney Robinson remarked that adult use license applicants needed to apply for the Social Equity Program first, and he noted staff from the enforcement section were giving presentations on the licensing process.

*Mayor Hopewell arrived at 5:45 p.m.

Ms. Franco stated the MRA was trying to give people in the Kalamazoo area an opportunity to get into the industry and stated the MRA would work with potential applicants to determine the type of licenses needed and the social equity discounts that would apply. Ms. Franco stated the MRA enforcement section would be able to answer questions about license fees.

2019-0316

Presentation and Discussion re: the State’s Social Equity Program for Adult Use Marihuana License Applicants (cont’d)

Citizen Comments

City Commissioner
Comments

Finally, an opportunity was given for miscellaneous comments from City Commissioners, but no comments were offered.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Borling
City Clerk

For City Commission approval on November 11, 2019

Approved by: _____
Bobby J. Hopewell, Mayor
Dated: November 11, 2019

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