Good afternoon,

I’m including you on this email because you have contacted me or another Planning staff member at some point about medical marijuana in Grand Rapids. If you no longer want to be on this list, please respond to let me know. If there are others that you think might want to be on the list, please forward this to them and have them contact me directly with questions or to be added to the list. Thank you.

The draw is complete! The draw for Planning Commission consideration order took place last Friday, April 26, 2019 in the Public Hearing Room on the second floor of 1120 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids MI 49503, and was livestreamed on the City’s Facebook page. A YouTube video of the livestream is now available here: https://youtu.be/hs0P_rI0RNI?t=526. I’ve attached a sortable Excel spreadsheet with the draw order and some other information about applications, including influence area. This spreadsheet will soon replace the PDF that was posted online this morning. Note: We received some questions about whether the application at 2850 S. Division Ave. needed a waiver of separation distances. It’s ok; a parcel split was executed which removed that parcel from being within 1,000 feet of a church, but the interactive marijuana map is not yet showing the updated property boundaries.

Remember, we are still accepting applications, but those applications received after the draw window closed at 4:00 pm on March 15 will simply be placed for consideration after those that were in the draw once they are found to be complete. This also applies to applications submitted prior to that time, if we found them to be incomplete (after a chance to correct deficiencies). Also, as I have explained before, influence areas become important as we schedule applications on the Planning Commission’s calendar. One application in a given influence area must be approved or denied before another application in the same influence area. Because of this, some applications may end up being heard by the Planning Commission ahead of an application that was drawn before them, only if the other application is in a different influence area.

As applications begin to be scheduled on the Planning Commission calendar, we will add their scheduled hearing date to the online marijuana applications table. We expect to bring the two applications chosen first in the draw to the Planning Commission on May 23, 2019. Now, I have a new website for you to get to know. All of the City of Grand Rapids’ boards and commissions publish agendas and items for consideration on a web portal system located at http://grandrapidscitymi.iqm2.com. Select “City Planning Commission” in the Meeting Group dropdown at the upper left side of that web page to see all upcoming (and past) Commission meetings. We typically post Planning Commission agendas on this site just over two weeks prior to the Commission’s meeting, and the agenda packets and all application information online the Friday before the meeting. You can register for an account on this system to receive notices of upcoming meetings for the Planning Commission and other boards and commissions if you like. Correspondence about an agenda item should be emailed to me by noon the Friday before the hearing if you want it to be included in the Commission’s packet. Otherwise, correspondence that I receive prior to 9:00 AM the day of the hearing will be passed along to the Commissioners, although they will not see it until their meeting that afternoon.

As always, I appreciate your continued comments and questions, but please continue to check the City’s marijuana webpage for information. Please remember that all past update emails can be found at https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/Government/Programs-and-Initiatives/Medical-Marijuana/Contacts.
Best wishes,

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