

## **Bartley, Landon**

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**From:** Bartley, Landon  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 24, 2018 12:02 PM  
**To:** Bartley, Landon  
**Subject:** Medical Marihuana in Grand Rapids - October 24 Update (Proposed Ordinance Amendments)  
**Attachments:** Proposed MM Ordinance Amendments for 11-8-2018 PC.pdf

Good morning,

I'm including you on this email because you have contacted me or another Planning staff member at some point about medical marijuana. 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.

In my previous email on October 18, 2018, I mentioned that Grand Rapids is exploring possible amendments to its medical marihuana ordinance, as well as some policies pertaining to the ordinance's administration.

Based on guidance from the City Commission at their October 8 work session, staff has drafted several ordinance amendments, which the Planning Commission will consider at their meeting at 3:00 PM, Thursday November 8, 2018. The Planning Commission meets in Room 201, on the second floor of [1120 Monroe Avenue NW, Grand Rapids MI 49503](#). You are welcome to attend in person, or can view a live stream of the meeting on the [City of Grand Rapids Development Center's Facebook page](#).

**I have attached the proposed amendment language to this email**, and it is also available online at [http://grandrapidscitymi.igm2.com/Citizens/Detail\\_Meeting.aspx?ID=4665](http://grandrapidscitymi.igm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=4665). We will post a written report explaining the amendments in more detail on that page on Friday, November 2. If you have comments about the amendments, you should express them in person at the public hearing, or email or mail them to me directly to pass along to the Commission. Do not attempt to contact individual Planning Commissioners. Please also note: the attached document does not include all sections of the ordinance; just those proposed for amendment.

**Briefly, if all proposed amendments are adopted:**

- 1) Prequalification. Applicants for local approval of a medical marihuana facility would no longer need to have already received Phase I approval/prequalification from the State. They would however, have to prove that they have already submitted Phase I paperwork and the application fee to the State, in order to be eligible to apply at the local level.
- 2) Separation Distances. Provisioning centers located in an industrial zone district (co-located with a grower and/or processor and accessory to those uses) would have and be subject to a 1,000 foot separation distance from other medical marihuana facilities. Provisioning centers in commercial zone districts would still have a 2,000 foot separation distance requirements.
- 3) License Classes. Secure transporters and safety compliance facilities would no longer be subject to the separation distance requirements nor the Special Land Use requirements. They would require Director (administrative) Review where allowed. All other license types would still be required to receive Special Land Use approval from the Planning Commission.
- 4) Clarifications and Corrections. These amendments make the "religious institution" and "publicly owned park or playground" terminology consistent, clarify the definition of a "school", fix up some grammatical errors, clarify that only one application can be processed per parcel, and removes language that is redundant or already located elsewhere in the ordinance. Based on the timelines required for amendments, we have also entered in the soonest possible dates for the ordinance to take effect (January 17, 2019) and to begin taking applications (January 22,

2019). **Inclusion of these dates, and any of these items, in the proposed ordinance amendments, does not guarantee that they will be adopted. Either date could end up being later than what is proposed.** All amendments are subject to consideration by both the Planning Commission and City Commission.

Please take some time to review the attachment, and send comments. If you would like your comments to be shared with the Planning Commission, please explicitly state so, and know that any comments sent to the Planning Commission will be public record.

On November 13, 2018, we expect the City Commission will consider administrative policies about medical marihuana (waivers, equitable development, application process), but not the proposed ordinance amendments. Their first reading of the amendments will be on November 27, 2018, at which point they can decide whether they want to hold another public hearing or not.

Finally, as all of you know, there is a statewide vote on November 6 to decide whether to allow recreational marihuana (Proposal 1). The City Commission has not yet indicated their intent for local action if that proposal is approved. As staff, we cannot speak to the City Commission's position, if any, nor can we speak to any details about the proposal language. If it passes, I imagine there will be some discussion at the Planning and City Commission's meetings on 11/8 and 11/13, respectively. However, any action taken at these meetings will be addressing **only** the medical marihuana ordinance and relevant policies.

As always, I appreciate your ongoing comments and questions, but I encourage you to make a habit of visiting the City's medical marihuana webpage first (<https://www.grandrapidsmi.gov/MedicalMarihuana>). Thank you.

Best wishes,

**Landon Bartley, AICP**

Senior Planner

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