

**NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**MEETING: COMMITTEE ON LICENSING & ZONING FOR CANNABIS**  
**DATE: OCTOBER 22, 2018**  
**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**  
**PLACE: COUNCILLOR WILLIAM SALTZMAN ANTECHAMBER,**  
**ROOM 213, MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLORS IAN ABREU, CHAIRMAN; MARIA GIESTA,**  
**VICE-CHAIRPERSON; NAOMI CARNEY (7:05); BRIAN GOMES**  
**AND DANA REBEIRO**

**ABSENT: NO ONE**

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Councillor Abreu called the Licensing & Zoning for Cannabis Meeting to order and took attendance, everyone was present.

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Notice, City Clerk of reference of a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillors Abreu and Giesta, requesting, that the Administration and Solicitor's Office meet with the Special Committee on Licensing & Zoning for Cannabis to discuss the potential investor application and/or Request for Proposal (RFP) process, and how the Committee and Administration can collaborate on a process that is fair and transparent for all interested parties (To be Referred to the Special Committee on Licensing & Zoning for Cannabis, the Administration and Solicitor's Office) (Ref'd 9/27/18) was received and placed on file by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Giesta. (1)

Attorney Blair Bailey from the Solicitor's Office was present as he was the person who has been drafting the city's application form for marijuana dispensaries. He told the Committee the form should be completed next week. The application submitted to the city will be considered when a license has been granted to an entity by the State. A screening Committee will be set up by the Administration which will consist of a City Councillor, a designated member of the Planning Department, Solicitors Office, the Police Chief, the CFO, Inspectional Services and the Board of Health. Right now they will be required to meet twice a year to review applications, (June & December). The applicant, as part of the application process, will be required to pay 3-1/2 percent of sales to the city, hire local employees and contractors, and have an approved location and security plan. Once an application is approved, they will be referred to the Administration for the Mayor to review and negotiate, once done the Mayor will send recommendations to the City Council for agreement.

Tabitha Harkin, City Planner, stated they are already receiving inquiries, several calls a day, interest has picked up.

Councillor Rebeiro asked if the Committee positions will be appointed and she was told yes.

Attorney Blair Bailey stated once the application is completed he will send it to the Council.

Councillor Gomes expressed his concern that the Council found out about the application process through the press and that the Administration did not inform the Council ahead of time. He also believes the Committee should be required to meet more than twice a year to review applicants. He expressed concern that the Committee was all Mayoral appointments; he was told this format followed those of other communities.

Attorney Bailey explained that it could, but the hope was that the first applications were received they would review and compare proposals against each other prior to a decision being made. The city would not act immediately on the first one received they would need to review others to compare.

Councillor Giesta asked if there were any local applications filed with the State. Attorney Bailey said he was not aware of any; he did say that the State Director of the application process said he would make himself available to meet with the Commission if they wanted him to and the Committee said they would. Councillor Giesta asked if the total number of dispensaries would be eight (8) and she was told yes. She then asked if the city has to have eight (8) and she was told no. She too agreed the Committee should meet more than twice a year.

Attorney Bailey explained that when the Screening Committee does meet for the first time they will set up review steps between them and read the proposals in the order they are received, and compare and contrast each against each other. He reminded the Committee prior to the city looking at an application the entity will have had to submit state packets one (1) and three (3) for review. He also stated that those entities with Economic Empowerment designations would be given preference providing they meet all of the state requirements.

On motion by Councillor Giesta and seconded by Councillor Rebeiro, the Committee VOTED: To table this matter for sixty (60) days. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Carney made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Giesta.

This meeting adjourned @ 7:39 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Denis Lawrence, Jr.,  
Clerk of Committees