



County of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board
575 Administration Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Agenda Item Number:
(This Section for use by Clerk of the Board Only.)

To: Board of Supervisors

Board Agenda Date: July 18, 2017

Vote Requirement: Majority

Department or Agency Name(s): Board of Supervisors
County Administrator's Office
Economic Development Board

Staff Name and Phone Number:

Sita Kuteira 707-565-3771
Tim Ricard 707-565-2420

Supervisorial District(s):

Title: Cannabis Advisory Group

Recommended Actions:

Approve the appointment of 20 members to serve on the Sonoma County Cannabis Advisory Group for a term of two years.

Executive Summary:

The County of Sonoma has launched the new Sonoma County Cannabis Program to permit and regulate cannabis businesses. When the Cannabis Program ordinances were adopted in December 2016, the Board also directed staff to convene a Cannabis Advisory Group to provide guidance on Program implementation, assist with information collection and analysis, and make recommendations related to new policies, programs and revenue expenditure. The Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee and staff opened a recruitment and are recommending 20 Sonoma County residents to serve on the Cannabis Advisory Group for a period of two years. The recommended appointees were selected from a pool of over 100 applicants for their interest, involvement, and diverse viewpoints, expertise, and geographic representation.

Discussion:

Background

Over the last several years, the State of California and the County of Sonoma have made significant strides toward establishing legal regimes to enable the cannabis industry to move into a regulated commercial market. In September 2015, the State passed the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA), which established a regulatory scheme for commercial medical cannabis businesses, which had been operating as collectives and cooperatives. Then in November 2016, California voters passed Proposition 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act, legalizing personal and commercial nonmedical cannabis. Both of these State laws maintain substantial local control, particularly in the areas of land use

and revenue generation, enabling the County to develop a local cannabis program that is tailored to the unique characteristics of Sonoma County.

In December 2016, the Board of Supervisors adopted a series of ordinances to establish a comprehensive local program to permit and regulate medical cannabis cultivators, nurseries, manufacturers, transporters, distributors, testing laboratories, and dispensaries. Sonoma County's ordinances regulating medical cannabis businesses include:

1. The Medical Cannabis Land Use Ordinance setting forth permit requirements and where and how each cannabis business type may operate;
2. The Medical Cannabis Health Ordinance establishing regulations and permitting for medical cannabis dispensaries and manufacturing to address product safety, labeling and advertising; and
3. The Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance imposing a tax on both medical and nonmedical commercial cannabis businesses operating in the unincorporated County.

In April 2017, the Board adopted of the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee charter and approval of Phase 2 of the Cannabis Program, which will focus on ordinance implementation, data collection and analysis, inclusion and exclusion zones, programs to address industry impacts, community engagement, and convening of the Cannabis Advisory Group.

Cannabis Advisory Group

The purpose of the Sonoma County Cannabis Advisory Group is to provide a diverse perspective on the impacts of cannabis and cannabis regulations and to provide information and feedback to the County for developing, amending, and funding local cannabis programs and policies.

The Advisory Group will meet monthly during business hours, for a period of two years. Members may be asked to assist with gathering data and input from their communities, reading research materials, and reviewing and providing feedback on documents. County staff will be responsible for drafting reports and recommendations on behalf of the Advisory Group to be shared with the public, Ad Hoc Committee, Board of Supervisors, Marijuana Technical Advisory Committee, State representatives, and other county and city staff.

The combination of the Cannabis Advisory Group and the Marijuana Technical Advisory Committee are intended to provide the broadest range of expertise, input and feedback on current and future policy. The Marijuana Technical Advisory Committee was formed in early 2016 and consists of representatives from over a dozen County departments and agencies, including the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office, Human Services Department, Department of Health Services, Permit and Resource Management Department, Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures, Fire and Emergency Services, Auditor Controller Treasurer Tax Collector, and many others. Since its inception, the Marijuana Technical Advisory Committee has met regularly and continues to meet on a monthly basis to advise on process and policy changes and provide input on implementation efforts.

Co-Chairs

Staff anticipates the Advisory Committee will select two individuals to act as Co-Chairs and work closely with staff, consultants, and the rest of the Advisory Board. The Co-Chairs will be responsible for

delivering recommendations and reports to Board of Supervisors, conducting the public meetings and building consensus among the committee.

Focus Areas

The areas of focus for the Advisory Group would be informed by the group itself and the meeting agendas will be created by the Co-Chairs and County staff. The County anticipates that issues would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Permitting
- Land Use Policies and Amendments
- Enforcement
- Impacts and Mitigation Programs
- Tax Policy
- Revenue Expenditure

Desired Outcomes:

The Advisory Group will participate in setting desired outcomes and outcome measures based on their various interests and perspective. Outcomes will centered around establishing a successful Cannabis Program and serving as a liaison between the industry, patients, the community at large, and local government, including the following:

- Help ensure County regulations preserve our environmental resources, protect the health and safety of our communities, and ensure the industry contributes positively to the economic vitality of our County.
- Provide County employees, the Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee and the Board of Supervisors with insights and information so they can adapt proactively to changes in the cannabis industry, local economy and community needs.
- Provide recommendations to inform the work of Sonoma County regulatory bodies as they implement, draft and amend land use, health, and tax policies affecting the industry.
- Establish productive communication flows and relationships between the cannabis industry, community members, educational institutions and health care providers.
- Provide a public forum to gather information from the community regarding the local cannabis programs and policies.

Selection Process

On April 11, the Board approved the Advisory Group Selection and Work Plan. Based on that, the Ad Hoc and staff opened a request for applications. Notification of the recruitment was sent to local press, displayed on the Cannabis Program website, distributed to the Program's mailing list of over 1,000 recipients, and disseminated through the Marijuana Technical Advisory Committee departments to varied relevant groups and parties.

The County received over 100 applications. Applicants were identified by supervisorial district and grouped in several different areas including cannabis industry businesses (and further subdivided among business types), consultants and other business representatives, neighborhood and community leaders, health and human services providers, and educators. Applications were reviewed by staff and the Ad Hoc Committee, and further input was gathered from the Marijuana Technical Advisory Committee to recommend a group of individuals with a broad range of expertise and mixed geographic

representation. Representatives from local and state governments will be specially invited to Advisory Group meetings, but are not among the recommended appointed members of the Group.

Appointees

Recommended members of the Cannabis Advisory Group include:

Name	Dist.	Position, Company/Group
Tawnie Logan	4	Board Chair, Sonoma County Growers Alliance (industry/cultivation)
Julie Terry	5	Owner/Operator, West County Pride (cottage cultivation)
Alexa Garcia	4 & 2	Owner/CEO, Luma California (cultivation)
Katherine Dowdney	5	Co-owner, Earthen Farms (cultivation)
Samual Edwards	4	Owner/Operator, Cultura Crop Management (cultivation/manufacturing)
Brandon Levine	2	Mercy Wellness (dispensary)
Lauren Fraser	4	Founding Director, Cannabis Distribution Association President & Co-Founder, River Collective (distribution)
Jay Jensen	1	Novavine Grapevine Nursery (nursery/traditional agriculture)
Julie Mercer-Ingram	3	Attorney, Canna Legal / Beck Law (legal)
Omar Figueroa	5	Principal/Attorney, Law Offices of Omar Figueroa (legal)
Arthur Deicke	5	Owner/Manager, Environmental Pollution Solutions LLC (environmental consulting)
Paula Blaydes	1	Principal/Owner, Blaydes & Associates (consulting)
Shivawn Brady	1	Director of Operations, Effingham Medical Farms Field Research Assistant, Stanford University (consulting)
Dave Peterson	3	Keegan & Coppin Company, Inc. (real estate)
Terry Garrett	3	Managing Member, Sonoma County GO LOCAL (media/local econ)
Richard Gunderson	4	Willowside Homeowners Association (neighborhoods)
S Brantly Richardson	1	Santa Rosa Neighborhood Groups (neighborhoods)
Sarah Shrader	5	Chair, Sonoma County Americans for Safe Access (patients)
Erin Lund	3	Family Physician, Santa Rosa Community Health Centers (health)
Steve Nielsen	3	School-Court Liaison, Sonoma County Office of Education (education)

Staffing and Support

The Advisory Group will be supported primarily by the Cannabis Program Manager in the Economic Development Department with assistance from the administrative staff and the County Administrator's Office. Staff will assist the co-chairs in developing agendas, arrange for speakers, research and distribute background materials, and draft reports and recommendations for the Advisory Group. The Cannabis Program Manager is fully funded by Cannabis Business Tax revenues. Based on estimates from other groups, it is expected that the group will require approximately 16 hours per month of support time, assuming one meeting per month. More staff time will be needed upfront to get the group started. Additionally staff is planning to contract with a facilitator to assist with the first meetings and refining a plan for the group to ensure the time is valuable and productive.

Meetings & Next Steps

The first Advisory Group meeting will be scheduled for late July or early August, and regular meetings will be scheduled there forward. All meetings will be public and dates and times will be made available on the Cannabis Program website. The Advisory Group will provide continuous input to staff and the Ad Hoc Committee, and will aim for its first report to the full Board around midyear FY 17-18.

Prior Board Actions:

June 13, 2017: Final adoption of Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance Amendments and Policies.
 April 11, 2017: Approval of staffing and budgetary adjustments to implement the Cannabis Program, adoption of the 2017 Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee Charter, and approval of the Advisory Group Selection and Work Plan.
 December 20, 2016: Final adoption of Cannabis Land Use Ordinance.
 December 13, 2016: Final adoption of Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance and Cannabis Health Ordinance.
 December 6, 2016: Calling the March Special Election for the Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance.

Strategic Plan Alignment Goal 4: Civic Services and Engagement

The Cannabis Advisory Group provides an opportunity for greater citizen participation in County government and will help to align the Cannabis Program and related public services with community needs and desires.

Fiscal Summary

Expenditures	FY 17-18 Adopted	FY 18-19 Projected	FY 18-19 Projected
Budgeted Expenses	\$25,500	\$18,500	
Additional Appropriation Requested			
Total Expenditures	\$25,500	\$18,500	

Funding Sources

General Fund/WA GF	\$25,500	\$18,500	
State/Federal			
Fees/Other			
Use of Fund Balance			
Contingencies			
Total Sources	\$25,500	\$18,500	

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:

It is estimated that staffing for the group will require 16 hours per month from the Cannabis Program Manager, totaling approximately \$18,500 per year for the two-year term of the Advisory Group, plus approximately \$7,000 in one-time costs in FY 17-18 to contract with a facilitator. These costs are already included in the Cannabis Program Budget to be funded by Cannabis Business Tax revenues.

Staffing Impacts			
Position Title (Payroll Classification)	Monthly Salary Range (A – I Step)	Additions (Number)	Deletions (Number)
Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):			
Attachments:			
Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board:			