

CITY OF HERMOSA BEACH

CANNABIS ADVISORY GROUP WORKPLAN



OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

At its December 14, 2021 meeting, following a discussion prompted by the filing of an initiative by an industry-related proponent to allow cannabis retail in Hermosa Beach, the City Council directed the City Manager to form an Advisory Group, subject to the Brown Act, to explore policy issues and provide City Council with input on whether the City's current ban on cannabis business operations should be modified.

The Cannabis Advisory Group will examine whether the City should change its current ban on cannabis sales and, if so, whether cannabis retail storefront operations or delivery sales from locations within the City, or both, should be permitted in Hermosa Beach. The group will also study and discuss how a change in the ordinance would impact law enforcement and the community. The work of the Cannabis Advisory Group will culminate in a report and recommendation to City Council. The information will be advisory only and does not obligate City Council in any manner.

The group will hold at least four or five public meetings of at least three to four hours in length. The meetings will be conducted by teleconference and will include testimony from the public.

DECISION-MAKING

The Advisory Group will adhere to the Brown Act, meaning that its meetings will be open and public. The meetings will be conducted virtually, similar to City Council meetings. Staff and subject matter experts will make presentations to assist the Advisory Group in its discussions.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation will be structured in a manner to provide residents and interested parties the opportunity to provide public comment while maintaining adequate time and opportunity for the Advisory Group members to deliberate, discuss, and develop recommendations. In order to allow for broad participation while allowing time for group deliberation, the amount of time

allowed for individual public comments will be based on the number of interested speakers at each meeting.

ADVISORY GROUP ORGANIZATION

As directed by the City Council, the City Manager will carefully select Advisory Board members representing public safety, the health district, the school district, and members of the community; all efforts will be made to ensure that representation is evenly balanced.

The following Advisory Group members will be selected and appointed by the City Manager in accordance with direction provided by City Council:

- Six Community Representatives – Residents or Business Owners
- Business Representative — Hermosa Beach Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau
- Health Representative — Beach Cities Health District
- School District Representative — Hermosa Beach City School District

The following City staff will provide guidance and technical support to the advisory group:

- Suja Lowenthal—City Manager
- Paul LeBaron—Chief of Police
- Ken Robertson—Community Development Director
- Mike Jenkins (or designee)—City Attorney

WORKPLAN OUTLINE

As the advisory group progresses through its workplan, it shall do so recognizing that its ultimate task is to provide input and make recommendations for Council consideration. The workplan will begin with an introduction and orientation to cannabis policy and related issues. Through the course of the meetings, the Cannabis Advisory Group will explore the following:

- Should cannabis be sold in Hermosa Beach or should the current ban be maintained?
- If cannabis sales should be allowed in Hermosa Beach, should the sales be in the form of retail or delivery only?
- If retail sales should be allowed, in what areas of town should they be allowed to locate? How many should be allowed?
- Is there a community population in Hermosa Beach that needs cannabis who do not currently have access?
- What is the potential impact of cannabis sales on law enforcement and community character?