



Venice Neighborhood Council

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VNC Cannabis Committee

Tuesday, March 5, 2019, Tuesday, 7:00 pm–9:00 pm
Extra Space Storage Community Room, 658 Venice Blvd.

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Roll Call (7:00–7:03 pm)

	Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Cindy Chambers, Chair			Jed Pauker		
Roseann Boffa			Sailene Ossman		
Patrick Gallogly			Shep Stern		
Michael Jensen					

2. **APPROVAL OF THIS AGENDA** as presented or amended (7:03–7:05 pm)

3. **COMMITTEE MEMBER ASSIGNMENTS** (7:05–7:10 pm)

- Meeting minutes notetaking for this meeting
- April draft and final agenda
- April physical posting

4. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Scheduled Announcements

- None

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT** on items not on the agenda (7:10–7:15 pm)

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from February 5, 2019, meeting (7:15–7:18 pm)

- Motion made by:
- Vote:

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Neighborhood Councils’ role in cannabis business applications (7:18–7:55 pm). See language below from the [DCR website’s FAQs](#).

- i. How will a neighborhood council know if a business has applied to open a cannabis business in its boundaries? After DCR deems an annual license

application complete, it will mail notice of the application to all occupants and property owners within a 500-foot radius of the proposed business premises as well as provide the same notice to the council district office and the closest neighborhood council and business improvement district. DCR will also require each applicant to offer to appear before the closest neighborhood council to answer questions about the application.

- ii. What role does a neighborhood council have in the licensing process for cannabis businesses in its boundaries? An applicant for a City cannabis license does not have to obtain the approval of a neighborhood council as a condition of receiving a license. Nor does an applicant have to enter into a community benefits agreement or any other agreement with a neighborhood council prior to obtaining a license. However, applicants and neighborhood councils are free to engage with one another, and applicants can enter into agreements to support the community.
 - iii. Who decides whether an applicant receives a cannabis license? Licensing determinations are made by DCR and/or the Cannabis Regulation Commission (CRC). DCR makes the licensing decision for all applications for non-retail licenses in business premises less than 30,000 square feet. For all retail licenses and non-retail licenses in business premises 30,000 square feet or larger, DCR may deny the application or recommend to the CRC that it issue a license. After conducting a public hearing, the CRC may issue or deny issuance of a license pursuant to the procedure specified in LAMC Sec. 104.06.
 - iv. Will the City deny an application if a neighborhood council opposes it? The City may only deny a cannabis license for one or more of nine enumerated reasons specified in LAMC Sec. 104.06, and community opposition is not among those nine reasons. If a neighborhood council or any other member of the public wants to oppose an application, they should present the City with evidence that is relevant to one of the nine reasons for denying a license. For questions about submitting evidence to the City, please inquire at cannabis@lacity.org.
 - v. What responsibilities does a new cannabis business have with their local neighborhood council? A licensee is not required by City law to engage with a neighborhood council as a condition of its license. But a licensee is required to conduct its business in a manner that does not adversely impact the quality of life of the surrounding areas. If a neighborhood council or any member of the public believes a licensee's operation is adversely impacting the surrounding areas, they should contact the business's Neighborhood Liaison or submit a complaint on DCR's complaint portal at cannabis.lacity.org/#submitcomplaint.
 - vi. POSSIBLE ACTION:
 - vii. COMMITTEE VOTE:
- B. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: EMMD (Existing Medical Marijuana Dispensary) cannabis retail re-location requests amended ordinance. Per the DCR, an EMMD must have submitted a relocation request to DCR by November 30, 2018, if it wanted to move to a new location while it is awaiting a final licensing decision from DCR. For a request submitted between October 19, 2018, and November 30, 2018, DCR must

seek and consider the recommendation of the impacted Councilmember before approving the requests (7:55–8:05 pm).

i POSSIBLE ACTION:

ii COMMITTEE VOTE:

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Recently released proposed changes to DCR regulations and licensing for Phase 3 licensing (8:05–8:30 pm).

i POSSIBLE ACTION:

ii COMMITTEE VOTE:

B. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Consider community benefit and outline and request a community impact statement (8:30–8:45 pm)

i POSSIBLE ACTION:

COMMITTEE VOTE:

C. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: DCR proposal to increase the number of retailer licenses an individual can hold from three (3) to twelve (12) for those who own less than a 49% share of a Tier 1 storefront (8:45–8:55 pm).

i POSSIBLE ACTION:

ii COMMITTEE VOTE:

9. **COMMITTEE COMMENTS** – Comments by committee members on subject matters within the jurisdiction of the Cannabis Committee but not on the agenda (8:55–9:00 pm)

10. **ADJOURN** at 9:00 pm

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS: *The public is requested to fill out a “Speaker Card” to address the [committee] on any agenda item before the committee takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the committee’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer.*

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RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS: *For information on the VNC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the VNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.venicenc.org.*

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