

Summary of the November 3, 2022 Public Meeting on Cannabis
Held Via Zoom
12:00 PM- 12:45 PM

1. Attendance:
 - a. 4 members of the public
 - b. 1 member of the media
 - c. 8 staff members (number includes the Mayor)

2. General Comments:
 - a. *Kyle Burger*
 - i. Residents of Peoria or Illinois should have the first opportunity to apply, to own a cannabis business in Illinois, before the opportunity is handed out to larger companies from other states.

 - b. *Kyle Burger*
 - i. Regarding the social equity application, there should be an opportunity for social cooperatives. It would be easier for completing the paperwork and to raise funds.

 - c. *Kyler Burger*
 - i. Number of dispensaries should not be capped. Dozens of liquor stores in Peoria so there should not be a cap on only two dispensaries. Cannabis is not as deadly as alcohol and tobacco.

 - d. *Sydney- Cannabis Educator*
 - i. She would like to see social consumption taken more seriously. Other states have different licensing. In some states, patients and users have better access to cannabis because they can see or smell their cannabis. Generally, she would like to see more in place so that it is used safely.

3. Questions Posed by the Audience:
 - a. **Does the prohibition for usage around persons under 21 extend to private residences?**
 - i. Extension of prohibition could apply if you do have children in your home, idea is that you should not be using it around persons under 21, but there is also a recognition of parental rights there. It is unlikely that the police department will do checks in private residences for cannabis use of persons under 21, but if there are complaints made they may get involved.

 - b. **Based on the companies that have applied for a special use permit, it appears that one is California based and two are Michigan based, how does that help Peoria (if Peoria does not have owners of those businesses)?**

- i. In 2019, when this discussion began, it was not unusual to see large companies, from states that have already had a process in place, apply for special use permits. That was a big criticism statewide when the program first began. The out of state companies do employee locals so there is a benefit there. However, it will be brought to City Council's attention on whether they want to make sure there is a local presence (through employees or a manager on site etc.).
- c. Zoning is 500 feet for cannabis, alcohol and tobacco are proven to be worse but those businesses have lower restrictions. Why?**
- i. When the 500 feet restriction was set in 2019, there was not a basis to go off of for cannabis businesses. At the time, City Council wanted something more substantial than alcohol and tobacco businesses, but not unreasonable so that the cannabis businesses could locate within the City.
 - ii. Further, Peoria only has two cannabis businesses which are both run by Trinity. Trinity has been a good community partner since they opened two and a half years ago. There has been no police activity and they have been very responsive. There was only one complaint about facility when medical cannabis patients were able to "drive through" for pick up orders per the Governor's COVID-19 relief order at the time. Trinity responded promptly when the City inquired about the process, and assured the City that they had security in place even though they were not set up as a drive through.