



## 2017 Marijuana Policy Areas

As provided for in State Law, Washoe County's responsibility for implementing legalized marijuana includes identifying the appropriate zoning and licensing locations for marijuana facilities that align with community vision and the Board's Strategic Plan. In unincorporated Washoe County, the licensing and review process for legalized marijuana parallels the business license process for other similar legal businesses.

Framed for the board's discussion are guiding principles for licensing and code amendments categorized by themes that arose from Board strategic planning retreats. The themes include the extent of marijuana use in unincorporated Washoe County, accountability, regional parity and equity, public participation and process efficiency.

### Extent and impact of Legalized Marijuana in Unincorporated Washoe County

**BCC Policy:** Address traffic, public safety, visual, air quality and other direct impacts on neighborhood communities by *limiting the extent and impact of legalized marijuana* in unincorporated Washoe County,

#### **Key Implementation Concerns:**

- Total number of dispensaries/retail marijuana stores
- Location
- Operations: visual impacts, signage, limitation on store hours
- Home delivery
- Stand-alone retail stores
- Public use in lounges or other facilities (discussion point and possible direction)

#### **Staff Recommendations:**

- Maintain the look and feel of professional medical offices or pharmacy for dispensaries and retail marijuana stores (NRS 453A and current county codes)
- Create single license for medical and recreational marijuana facilities. This will limit facilities to commercial and industrial zones including neighborhood commercial. Single licenses eliminate stand-alone recreational marijuana stores.
- Consider regional parity for hours of operation of dispensaries/retail marijuana stores
- Eliminate outdoor cultivation facilities
- Allow Home Delivery, in conformance with State Laws, to reduce strain on enforcement and compliance personnel
- Provide direction if public use will be allowed in unincorporated Washoe County and monitor statewide discussion regarding public use at upcoming legislative sessions



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## Accountability

**BCC Policy:** Acknowledge the role of State partners and local jurisdictions in the governance and enforcement of legalized marijuana and industry should pay for the direct and indirect costs of legalized marijuana.

### Key Implementation Concerns:

- Fee structure for licensing
- Additional fees for relocation requests, investigations, and compliance inspections.
- Mitigation fees
- Staff training fees
- Additional application fee that is different from the business license fee

### Staff Recommendations:

- Provide for 3% fee on marijuana facilities that is collected annually
- Allocate funds received from State based on NRS allocation and the 3% fee to recoup direct and indirect costs and programming associated with legalized marijuana industry
- Create a new fee for relocation requests that reflects staff review time
- Ensure fines and fees recoup compliance inspections and licensing/permitting costs
- Mitigation or remediation of environmental damage is already accounted for in current regulations.
- Do not establish a process to recoup training costs from industry.
- Recommend that partnering agencies standardize and collect fees for substantiated investigations.
- Consider an application fee for all businesses, including marijuana, that will be considered with current fee study.

## Regional Parity and Equity

**BCC Policy:** Partner with local jurisdictions to ensure streamlined process, but consider unique needs of unincorporated Washoe County.

### Key Implementation Concerns:

- Hours of Operation
- Location
- Licensing Process
- Fines and fees
- Enforcement



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## Staff Recommendations

- Captured in other areas
- Education campaign to complement state education campaign
- Review hours of operation, fines and education in partnership with regional entities

## Extent of Public Participation

**BCC Policy:** Ensure transparency and consideration for public feedback during the code review process and mimic other similar licenses (liquor)

## Key Implementation Concerns:

- Use of neighborhood meetings for relocation requests for retail marijuana stores
- Guidelines for public review process
- Determine individuals who are directly affected

## Staff Recommendations

- Model licensing and public review after similar business licenses in unincorporated Washoe County (ie. liquor, casinos)
- By internal policy, limit neighborhood meetings to the review of dispensary/retail marijuana store relocation requests. All relocation requests require a public hearing before the Board.
- Internal policies will outline notification for public hearings and neighborhood meetings based on most stringent public hearing noticing processes in land use codes.
- Work directly with State to partner on education initiatives.

## Simplicity, streamline processes, streamline code

**BCC Policy:** Streamline and simplify processes to treat medical and recreational marijuana in the same manner and ensure clarity in the process

## Key Implementation Concerns:

- State of Nevada is moving toward single licensure of medical and recreational marijuana following implementation of current recreational marijuana regulations
- Single licensure will limit retail marijuana (recreational) stores to commercial and industrial regulatory zones
- No stand-alone retail (recreational) marijuana stores
- Simplify marijuana related code into one location
- Clarify definitions



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## Staff Recommendations

- Model licensing and agency review after similar business licenses in unincorporated Washoe County (ie. liquor)
- Simplify county code on medical marijuana and recreational marijuana into one location "marijuana establishments"
- Allow for single licensure of marijuana establishments
- Model requirements for recreational marijuana facilities after medical marijuana facilities