



LATE FILE

**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**  
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

February 22, 2017

City Council President Joseph P. Lopes and  
Honorable Members of the New Bedford City Council  
New Bedford City Hall  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, Massachusetts, 02740

CITY CLERKS OFFICE  
NEW BEDFORD, MA  
2017 FEB 22 P 3:35  
CITY CLERK

Dear Council President Lopes and Honorable Members of the City Council,

I am submitting for your approval the enclosed Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Marijuana Establishments in the City of New Bedford. In the wake of the new state law allowing recreational marijuana establishments, cities and towns across the Commonwealth are moving to put in place common sense measures that will give them the opportunity to study the potential impacts of these establishments and adopt zoning and other regulations to protect neighborhoods and residents.

It is important for the City of New Bedford to likewise move quickly using the same prudent approach as other communities. Recreational marijuana establishments are not presently addressed in the City of New Bedford's Zoning Code, and the City is only just beginning to identify and study the range of new legal, planning, and public safety issues associated with the future operation of these establishments.

State government is similarly just beginning to formulate its approach to implementing the new law. Importantly, a Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) is being formed to oversee the licensing and regulation of recreational marijuana establishments. The CCC has until March 15, 2018 to issue its regulations and could begin accepting applications for licenses to operate recreational marijuana establishments as early as April 1, 2018.

With this timetable in mind, the temporary moratorium I am proposing would ban these establishments until September 30, 2018, *or until such time as the City adopts a Zoning Bylaw amendment, whichever occurs first*. Know that I am committed to working together with the City Council to use effectively the period prior to the moratorium's expiration and put all the necessary protections in place. Thank you for your consideration of this important measure.

Sincerely,

  
Jon Mitchell  
Mayor