



City of New Bedford

Office of City Council

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Ian Abreu

Councillor at Large

MEMO

TO: All Councillors; Damon Chaplin, Director, Health Department; Joseph C. Cordeiro, Chief of Police; Nicholas Nanopoulos, Director, Licensing Department; Danny Romanowicz, Commissioner, Department of Inspectional Services; Ari J. Sky, Chief Financial Officer; Patrick J. Sullivan, Planning and Community Development Director; Mayor's Office

FROM: Councillor Ian Abreu, Chairman
Committee on Cannabis Regulation and
Host Community Agreements Review

DATE: February 5, 2019

SUBJECT: ***FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE***

As most of you are aware, Council President Morad has again entrusted me to spearhead the consideration of certain issues related to cannabis through the City Council's special committee structure. The name of the committee has changed and the duties of the committee going forward will be much more specific in nature to deal narrowly with local regulations and consideration of HCA's that are submitted to the City Council by the Mayor. In addition, the President has restructured the committee to be comprised of all members of the City Council.

Last summer during the various discussions on zoning for Marijuana Establishments, there was much concern with regard to the health, safety and welfare of our citizens that possibly could result due to the operation of these establishments. Although some of those concerns seeped into the zoning law, everyone seemed to agree that further discussion should occur for the possible implementation of a municipal license that would address the various concerns that were raised during those discussions.

It is my intention to waste no time bringing various interests to the table to begin crafting local licensing regulations where necessary. In seeking expediency however, it seems prudent to attempt to make any meetings of the committee as productive and efficient as possible. With that in mind, I am asking all of you receiving this memo to begin thinking about the specific approach you would like to bring to the table and the specific concerns you may have that you would like to see incorporated into a local regulatory scheme.

Things we need to discuss are the licensing process; which department would be charged with handling the licensing; and procedural and operational requirements of the licensee that would be imposed by the City to assure that the public health, safety and welfare is adequately protected in all aspects.

I have scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, March 13th at 7 p.m. inside of the City Council Chambers. In addition to participation of the members of the committee, all others receiving this memo will be invited to participate as well. It is my hope that you will have opportunity to consider some specific items in advance of March 13th and bring your ideas to the committee meeting. Anyone who wishes to submit or distribute your thoughts or concerns in writing in advance of the meeting is welcome to do so, as it may be helpful for everyone.

Feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

I look forward to working with everyone to craft appropriate regulations where necessary to bring proper protections to our City and its citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ian Abreu".

Ian Abreu, Chairman
Committee on Cannabis Regulation and Host Community Agreements Review

IA/at