

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Laura M. Hoffmeister, Chair
Edi E. Birsan, Committee Member

Civic Center
1950 Parkside Drive
Concord, CA 94519
www.cityofconcord.org



**Annotated Agenda
Special Meeting of the
Policy Development &
Internal Operations
Committee**

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

6:00 p.m.

City Council Chamber
1950 Parkside Drive

AGENDIZED ITEMS – The public is entitled to address the Committee on items appearing on the agenda before or during the Committee’s consideration of that item. Each speaker will be limited to approximately three minutes.

1. ROLL CALL – All present

STAFF PRESENT: Valerie Barone, City Manager; Kathleen Tropa, Assistant City Manager; Victoria Walker, Director of Community & Economic Development; Suzanne McDonald, Financial Operations Manager; Laura Simpson, Planning Manager; Michael P. Cass, Principal Planner; Pedro Garcia, Economic Development Specialist; Jessica Gonzalez, Assistant Planner; Margaret Kotzebue, Senior Assistant City Attorney; Police Lieutenant Russ Norris

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

3. REPORTS

- a. Receive Information on Marijuana Regulations and Provide Direction to Staff.
Report by Michael P. Cass, Principal Planner, and Pedro Garcia, Economic Development Specialist.

ACTION: Michael Cass and Pedro Garcia gave a presentation on federal, state, and local regulations for medical and non-medical marijuana; an update on pending legislation; an overview on the types of marijuana uses; and an overview of potential policy considerations, such as timing, taxation, economic impact, crime, life safety, odor, and environmental issues. Staff solicited feedback on a potential temporary ban on marijuana uses, community outreach options, and additional information necessary for the Committee to formalize recommendations to the Council. The Committee directed

questions to the Interdepartmental Working Group, comprised of staff representatives from City Management, City Attorney, Police, Finance, Public Works, Planning, and Economic Development. Chair Hoffmeister opened the public comment period where 25 members of the public spoke, largely in favor of permitting medical and non-medical deliveries and dispensaries in Concord. Chair Hoffmeister closed the public comment period.

The Committee provided the following direction to staff:

- Bring forward for Council consideration an ordinance removing the ban on deliveries of medical marijuana. Proceed with revised regulations as quickly as possible.
- Clarify regulations on testing laboratories.
- Provide more information on how a dispensary for medical marijuana could be regulated. Preference for a dispensary in northern Concord.
- Provide more information on outdoor cultivation in terms of what cities allow the use, what their experience is, and how much is required to be eligible for state grants.
- Research the pros and cons of permitting commercial indoor cultivation.
- Split opinion on proceeding with a temporary ban on non-medical marijuana with Chair Hoffmeister supporting a temporary ban and Committee Member Birsan opposing.
- Split opinion on community outreach with Chair Hoffmeister supporting a community survey and a scientific (statistically-valid) survey and Committee Member Birsan opposing a survey. Committee Member Birsan preferred a scientific survey if one is conducted.

4. ADJOURNMENT at 9:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: Regular Meeting

Date: 6/14/2017 - 6:00 PM

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Distribution: City Council
Valerie Barone, City Manager
Susanne Brown, City Attorney
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