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TO: Township and City Officials

On June 6, 2024, the St. Louis County Liquor Licensing Committee (the “Committee”) voted unanimously to recommend that the St. Louis County Board enact a county-wide moratorium prohibiting registration and operation of cannabis businesses through December 31, 2024, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes sections 342.13(e) (2024) and 145A.05 (2023).

The goal of the proposed moratorium is to allow local units of government time to determine what actions are most appropriate for their respective jurisdictions relative to cannabis business operations, including zoning and enforcement implications, as well as the potential impact of those actions on the ongoing health, safety and welfare their citizens. *The St. Louis County Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed moratorium at 10:00 a.m. on July 23, 2024, at the Ely City Hall, 209 East Chapman Street, Ely, Minnesota.*

The Committee’s decision to recommend the enactment of a county-wide moratorium was reached after its consideration of several factors, including the uncertainties local units of government face regarding the cannabis business registration process. The Office of Cannabis Management is engaged in the rulemaking process. This process is not expected to be completed until sometime in early 2025.

Several changes were made during this past legislative session to the cannabis laws, including the possibility of early licensing approval by the Office of Cannabis Management for social equity applicants, which could occur prior to January 1, 2025. The Committee felt it was important to ensure no cannabis business licenses could be approved until after local units of government had an opportunity to enact local regulations.

St. Louis County will continue to monitor the results of the rulemaking process from the Office of Cannabis Management and engage in ongoing discussions with other local units of government within the County as we craft the County’s cannabis ordinance. St. Louis County is committed to prioritizing the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens in its regulations and policies.

Attached to this correspondence please find a draft of the proposed moratorium to be considered by the St. Louis County Board, as well as a fact sheet discussing health and safety considerations for cannabis regulation and opportunities for local cannabis regulation.

In the coming weeks and months, should you have questions or concerns, or desire to have a conversation regarding the moratorium or the County’s next steps relative to the regulation of cannabis businesses, please reach out to Assistant St. Louis County Attorneys Kristen Swanson or Jim Nephew. Ms. Swanson and Mr. Nephew can be reached by telephone at (218) 726-2323 or by email at [swansonk@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:swansonk@stlouiscountymn.gov) or [nephewj@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:nephewj@stlouiscountymn.gov).