

CANNABIS CHECKLIST – Stearns County

PUBLIC USE ORDINANCE

- ✓ Ordinance #654, Ordinance Regulating the Use of Cannabis was effective September 19, 2023
- ✓ Prohibits use of cannabis products in public places and places of public accommodation
- ✓ Enforced by Sherrif and Attorney

REGISTRATION OF RETAIL BUSINESS

- ✓ Before making retails sales, a cannabis business must register
- ✓ Designate a department responsible for registration- Auditor or ESD
- ✓ Consult with cities and townships to determine their desire to delegate registration
- ✓ Develop an agreement for cities and townships
- ✓ Adopt registration ordinance. Minimum of 1 retail sales per 12,500 residents. Decision needed if the county wants a maximum
- ✓ Use liquor license workflow
- ✓ Compliance checks performed by Sherrif’s Department. Must be performed at least 1x per year. Age verification, operational requirements, limits of cannabis products being sold, unannounced age verification checks (with specific requirements).

ADOPTION OF ZONING REGULATIONS/COMP PLAN-ESD

- ✓ Policy discussion with the County Board to determine agricultural vs industrial/commercial use (May 21)
- ✓ Regulations may vary by type (cultivation, manufacturing, retail, temporary cannabis events)
- ✓ Develop proposed zoning ordinance standards and present to Planning Commission (June/July)
- ✓ Townships choose to adopt county regulations or amend Memorandum of Understanding
- ✓ Hold public hearing at County Board (September)
- ✓ Publish ordinance no later than December 31, 2024

ADOPTION OF SOLID WASTE REGULATIONS-ESD

- ✓ Hold public hearing at County Board (September)
- ✓ Publish ordinance no later than December 31, 2024

ADOPTION OF MORATORIUM

- ✓ Consider scheduling public hearing for June XX, 2024 (May 21)

DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

ADMINISTRATION

1. Collaborate with all Departments

COUNTY ATTORNEY

1. Draft moratorium
2. Provide legal review of zoning and solid waste regulations to comply with state law
3. Develop delegation agreement/Joint Powers Agreement for cities/townships
4. Enforce Public Use Ordinance #654

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1. Zoning regulations
2. Solid waste regulations
3. Coordinate with Townships on MOU
4. Manage registration program (?)

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Ongoing education efforts

SHERIFF

1. Conduct compliance checks reporting violations to Office of Cannabis Management
2. Enforce Public Use Ordinance #654

AUDITOR

1. Manage registration program (?)
2. Issue licenses for Temporary Cannabis Events (?)

ASSESSOR

1. Follow Minnesota Department of Revenue Property Tax Administrator's manual, Module 3, Page 46: All real property used for raising, cultivating, processing, or storing cannabis plants, flower, or products for sale is classified as 3a (commercial). Cannabis property is allowed to receive a first-tier classification rate under the same criteria as other types of commercial property. Cannabis plant, flower, and product are defined in Minnesota Statutes 342.01 and does not include medical cannabis or hemp.