

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 24 (PC)

**RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, RECOMMENDING TO THE CITY
COUNCIL ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTERS 14-16
(DISTRICT REGULATIONS) AND 14-53 (CANNABIS FACILITIES) OF
THE WATSONVILLE MUNICIPAL CODE**

WHEREAS, on November 9, 2016, California voters passed Proposition 64 (The Adult Use of Marijuana Act), which legalized cannabis in California. The deadline to pass permanent state regulations governing the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, testing and sales of cannabis was January 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2016, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1345-16, adding a new Chapter 52 (Cultivation, Processing, Manufacture, Distribution, Testing and Sale of Nonmedical Cannabis) of Title 14 (Zoning) of the Watsonville Municipal Code. The purpose of the ordinance was to make clear to prospective businesses that commercial recreational cannabis activities are not allowed in the City; and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 2017, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1352-17, adding a new Chapter 14-53 to the Watsonville Municipal Code. The purpose of this ordinance was to provide regulations for both medical cannabis cultivation and manufacturing within the City. Recreational or “adult-use” cannabis continued to be prohibited in the City; and

WHEREAS, on December 7, 2017, the California State Bureau of Cannabis Control adopted emergency regulations to clarify and make specific licensing and enforcement criteria for commercial cannabis businesses under the Medicinal and Adult-Use Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA or the Act); and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2018, the state Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act became effective. These permanent regulations rescinded the emergency regulations adopted in 2017; and

WHEREAS, on January 16, 2018, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1362-18 which allowed for the cultivation and manufacture of cannabis for the adult-use market, and rescinded Ordinance 1361-18 which prohibited recreational cannabis in the City. These two modifications became effective on March 15, 2018; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2018, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1364-18 which allowed for existing cultivation and manufacturing facilities to distribute cannabis for the adult-use market. This amendment became effective April 26, 2018; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2020, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 1404-20 (CM) adding a new Chapter 14-53 (Cannabis Facilities) and Ordinance No. 1405-20 (CM) which amended certain sections of Chapter 14-16 (District Regulations) of the WMC for the regulation of Cannabis businesses located within the City; and

WHEREAS, notice of time and place of the hearing to consider the approval of the proposed Zoning Code text amendment was given at the time and in the manner prescribed by the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Watsonville, pursuant to Part 9 of WMC Chapter 14-10; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has conducted a public hearing in accordance with Part 10 of WMC Chapter 14-10, considered all written and verbal evidence regarding the proposed Zoning Code text amendment, and made the following findings to recommend approval of the Ordinance text to the City Council per WMC Section 14-12.807:

- (a) **That the proposed Zoning Code text amendment is consistent with the policies embodied in the General Plan**, in that the Ordinance allows the City to promote the peace, health, safety, and welfare within the community by regulating cannabis businesses; and
- (b) **That the proposed Zoning Code text amendment is compatible to the extent possible with the actual and general planned use of the**

adjacent properties, in that the Ordinance reduces the potential for nuisances to the public generated by cannabis businesses by establishing reasonable permitting, signage, and operational standards for cannabis businesses that are intended to limit impacts on adjacent uses and additional requirements to ensure neighborhood compatibility and professional operations.

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has found that the proposed Zoning Code text amendments are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the “common sense” exception (14 Cal. Code Regs. § 15061(b)(3)), because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that this action may have a significant effect on the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Commission of the City of Watsonville, California, as follows:

Good cause appearing, therefore, the Planning Commission of the City of Watsonville does hereby recommend the City Council adopt amendments to Chapters 14-16 (District Regulations) and 14-53 (Cannabis Facilities) of the Watsonville Municipal Code. The proposed Zoning Code text amendment language is attached as Exhibit “A” and Exhibit “B.”

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Watsonville, California, held on the 7th day of May, 2024, by Commissioner_____, who moved its adoption, which motion being duly seconded by Commissioner_____, was upon roll call, carried and the resolution adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners:

Noes: Commissioners:

Absent: Commissioners:

Suzi Merriam, Secretary
Planning Commission

Ed Acosta, Chairperson
Planning Commission