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TOWN OF MADISON  
CONNECTICUT  
LAND USE OFFICE

**INTERNAL MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Madison Planning & Zoning Commission  
**From:** John Guskowski, Interim Town Planner  
**Date:** September 9, 2021  
**RE:** Potential Moratorium on Recreational Cannabis Uses

**SUMMARY**

Following the passage of Public Act 21-1 (SB 1201) or “RERACA” which legalizes the cultivation, sale, transport and distribution of adult use cannabis, the Town of Madison’s Planning & Zoning Commission seeks to establish a temporary moratorium on Cannabis Establishments so that it can take the time necessary to thoughtfully contemplate the development of regulations regarding these uses.

**PROPOSED LANGUAGE TO BE ADDED**

**(NEW) ARTICLE 2.20.4 - Temporary Moratorium on Recreational Cannabis Establishments**

**Section 1: Purpose**

Following the passage of Public Act 21-1 (June Special Session), as of July 1, 2021, the personal use and possession of cannabis by adults over the age of 21 became legal in the State of CT. The law also requires that the CT Department of Consumer Protection draft regulations pertaining to the use and sale of cannabis and to begin accepting applications for licenses. The law further provides for Municipalities to prohibit or enact reasonable restrictions on cannabis establishments. However, if standards are not established, such uses will be deemed a permitted use in zoning districts where similar retail and commercial establishments are allowed.

The potential regulation of recreational cannabis creates a multitude of legal, regulatory and safety issues that must be carefully considered. The establishment of a temporary moratorium on the use of land and structures in the Town of Madison for cannabis establishments as defined in PA 21-1 will allow sufficient time for the Town to consider the various components of this new industry, develop regulations which appropriately address these establishments and coordinate with other Town agencies.

## **Section 2: Definition of Terms:**

For the purpose of this section, the terms referred to herein shall be defined and used as outlined in PA 21-1.

**Cannabis Establishment:** a non-profit, person(s) or business entity otherwise engaged in an activity which would be defined as a producer, dispensary facility, cultivator, micro-cultivator, retailer, hybrid retailer, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer, product packager, transporter and, delivery service by PA-21-1 (SB 1201).

## **Section 3: Temporary Moratorium:**

For the reasons set for above, and notwithstanding any other provisions of the Zoning Regulations to the contrary, the Planning & Zoning Commission hereby adopts a temporary moratorium related to the acceptance, review and/or approval of applications seeking to establish the use of land and/or structures for a Cannabis Establishment and other uses related to recreational marijuana. This moratorium shall be in effect nine (9) months from the date of adoptions or until such time as the Commission adopts Zoning Regulations that regulate the establishments and activities described herein, whichever occurs earlier. While this moratorium is in effect, the Commission will undertake a planning process to evaluate the potential impact of allowing these establishments and consider any draft regulatory language provided by the CT Department of Consumer Protection with the ultimate goal of adopting a new Zoning Regulation which addresses these uses in a manner that is suitable to the Town of Madison.