

Cannabis dispensaries too close to park

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Borough solicitor Erika Lezama said she did not have the ordinance in front of her and wanted to have an opportunity to look at the laws before commenting. She said she could give Alloco a more informed answer at the next meeting.

"I know this is a very devise issue, but I also know that the laws were written to protect those that needed to be protected whether

it was a school, day care center, church, synagogue and in this case, a park," Alloco said.

He said he found it amazing that Borough Commission would send letters of support for the cannabis businesses without measuring the distance from Wilbraham Park to the locations of the two proposed locations.

Sabo said Borough Commission fully vetted the ordinance with legal counsel before it was approved. She

said the letters of support for the proposed cannabis locations stated they were within the zones the borough approved for cannabis businesses.

Borough Commission approved such businesses in the C2 and C3 zones but not the C1 zone across Broadway. Sabo said the distance from the park to the proposed businesses was measured by the borough.

Alloco said the "ship has sailed" regarding permit-

ting cannabis businesses in West Cape May but the distance from the proposed cannabis businesses to the park needed to be measured again. He suggested the borough look at alternate sites for cannabis businesses such as Central Avenue where more parking is available.

It is a decision of the business owners where to locate their shops, Sabo said.

"This is not my business I'm going into; the borough

is not going into the cannabis business. This is just an approved use in a zone," she said.

Alloco asked the borough engineer to walk the distance from the park to the proposed locations.

Sabo said if a prospective cannabis retailer has submitted an application to the CRC and is in violation of any part of the CREAMM Act, the application would not be approved.

He asked Lezama if the two applicants have pro-

vided a community impact statement and social responsibility statement to the CRC. Lezama offered to meet with Alloco.

According to the CREAMM Act, a municipality may enact and amend an ordinance or regulation that governs the location, manner and times of operation of cannabis businesses including rules that require one to be a certain distance from a house of worship, school, playground, park or child day care facility.

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Mercantile license

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in 2020, 121 in 2021 and 70 so far this year.

In the past, the clerk's office has been lenient with rental property owners who

have been late in obtaining their license, often contacting them multiple times before contacting code enforcement, she said.

Burke said the city processes about 1,650 mercan-

tile licenses each year.

"I think we can definitely condense the process in going to code enforcement sooner than we have in the past," she said.

Deputy City Manager Lou

Belasco said code enforcement can now view the files online of which businesses have purchased or not purchased a mercantile license.

Mullock said after reducing late fees to 10 percent, council could reevaluate the issue next year. Council will retain the right to authorize any late fee refunds.

Jamie Rulon, who owns a rental property, said she did not receive a fire inspection until May 16. She said she was under the impression that she needed to have a completed fire inspection before receiving a mercantile license.

Rulon said she received a bill with a late fee. Burke said a mercantile license can be issued if a business owner schedules and pays for their annual fire inspection. She said it is impossible for the fire department to inspect more than 1,600 properties in two months.

Deanna Brown, an innkeeper for 31 years, told council she received an email June 1 from the city stating her mercantile license was out of date. Brown said the license fee was \$175 with a late fee of \$200.

"By the time the clock struck 12, the night that I called, it went up another \$100 and the city never alerted me," she said.

She said her mercantile license fees for five licenses went from \$460 in 2021 to \$875 in 2022 and with late fees, her total was \$1,875.

Gillin-Schwartz said the 10 percent late fee, compounding monthly, would remain on any refunds of mercantile license fees.

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July 2022

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► Please note that some events require registration and a valid library card.

Featured Events:

Concert: Jay Daniels Trio

Friday July 8th, 4pm-5pm
Cape May County Park & Zoo

Concert: MOVE! The Band

Saturday July 16th, 4pm-5:30pm
Cape May County Park & Zoo

Arts & Crafts:

Please see our online calendar for this month's arts & crafts classes.

Cooking Classes:

Please see our online calendar for this month's cooking demonstrations.

Featured Educational:

Career Development: Using Google Workspace

Wednesday July 6th, 6pm-7pm
Online - Zoom

Beachcombing the Crest

Mondays, 6pm-7pm
Meet at Wildwood Crest Library

Planning, Preparing, & Pruning

Tuesday July 12th, 6pm-7pm
Cape May Court House Library

Shorebirds on the Bay

Thursday July 14th, 6pm-7:30pm
Lower Township Library

Problem Gambling - The Hidden Addiction Epidemic of 2022

Wed. July 20th, 6:30pm-8pm
Court House Library w/ virtual option

Lunch & Learn: The Story of Old Glory

Thursday July 28th, 12pm-1pm
Cape May Court House Library

Ongoing Clubs:

1st Thursday Book Club

Mystery at the Library Book Club

Jersey Cape Writers

American Mah Jongg

Conversational Lenape Language

See our online calendar for more info.

Fitness/Wellness Classes:

Yoga

Mondays and Thursdays,
9:30am-10:30am
Stone Harbor Library

Move & Meditate

Mondays, 4:30pm-5:30pm
Wildwood Crest Library

Zumba

Mondays in July & Aug., 5pm-6pm
Court House Library

Wedge

Wednesdays, 5pm-6pm
Sea Isle City Library

Meditation Hour

Mondays, 5:30pm-6:30pm
Lower Township Library

Basic Steps & Beginner Line Dancing

Mondays, 6pm-7pm
Wildwood Crest Library

Morning Line Dancing

Tuesdays, 11am-12pm
Wildwood Crest Library

Tai Chi & Qigong

Wednesdays, 10am & 11:30am
Lower Township Library

Stretch & Burn

Thursdays, 10am-11am
Sea Isle City Library

Stretch & Burn

Thursdays, 5pm-6pm
Online - Zoom

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